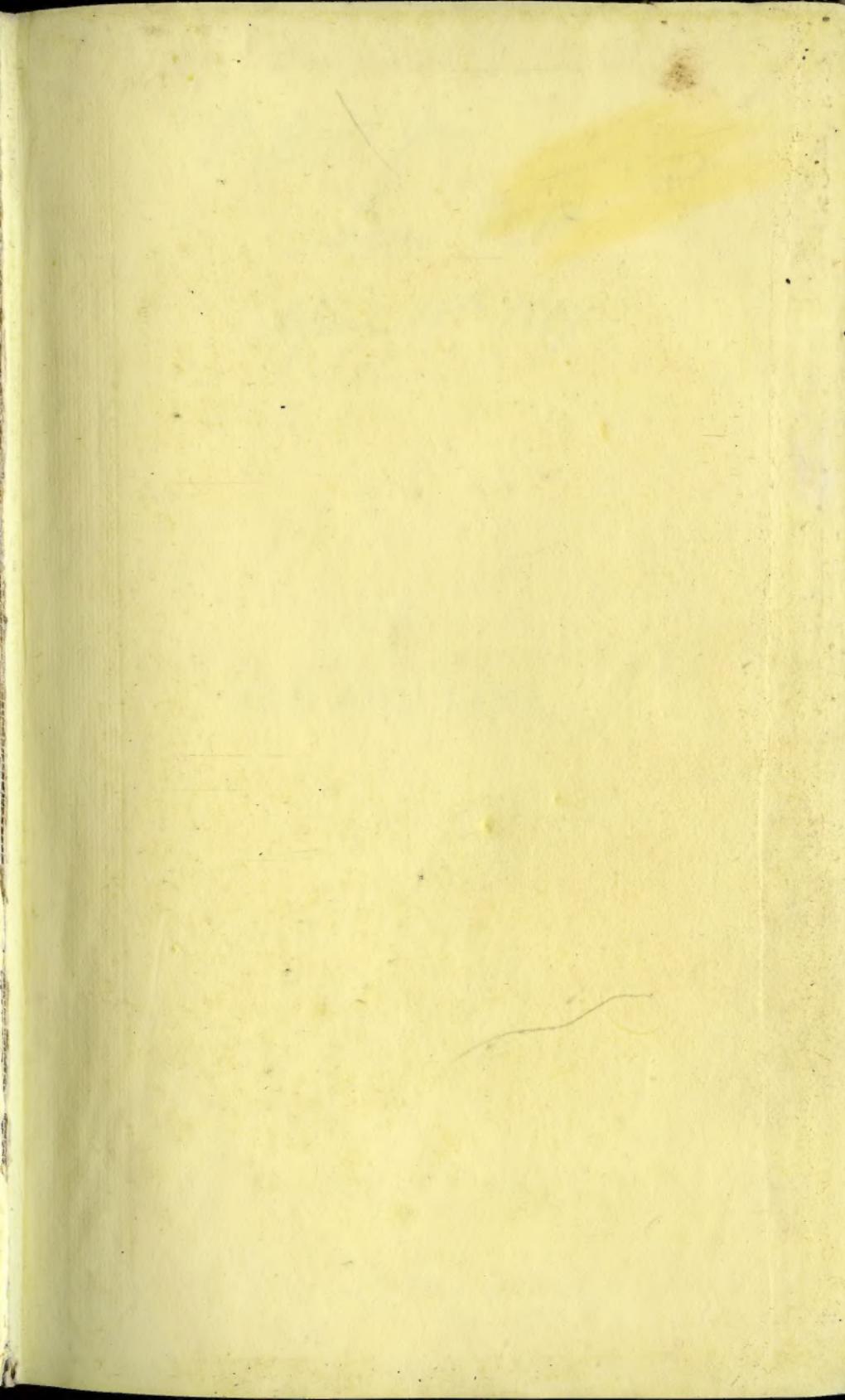
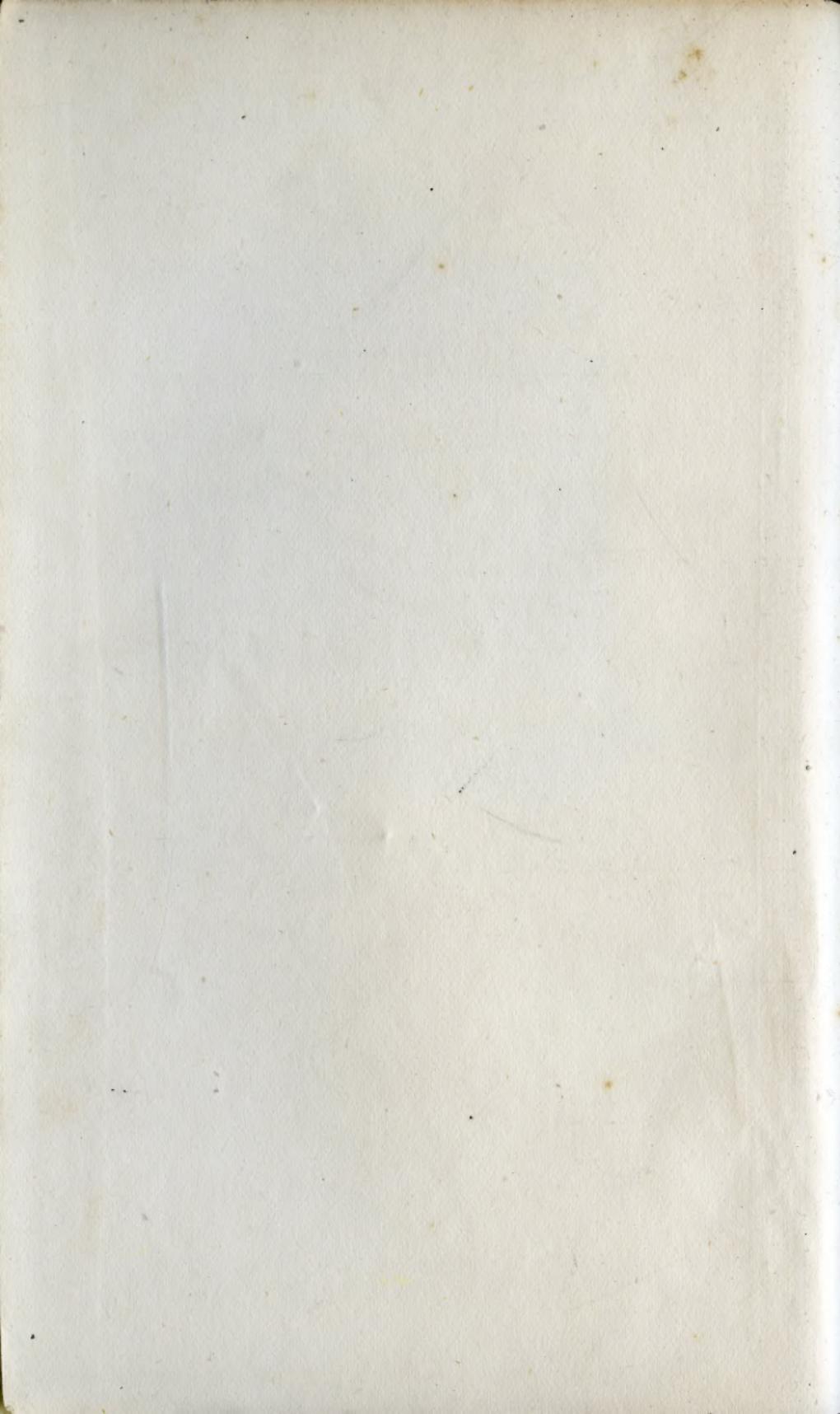


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THE
ROD AND LINE.

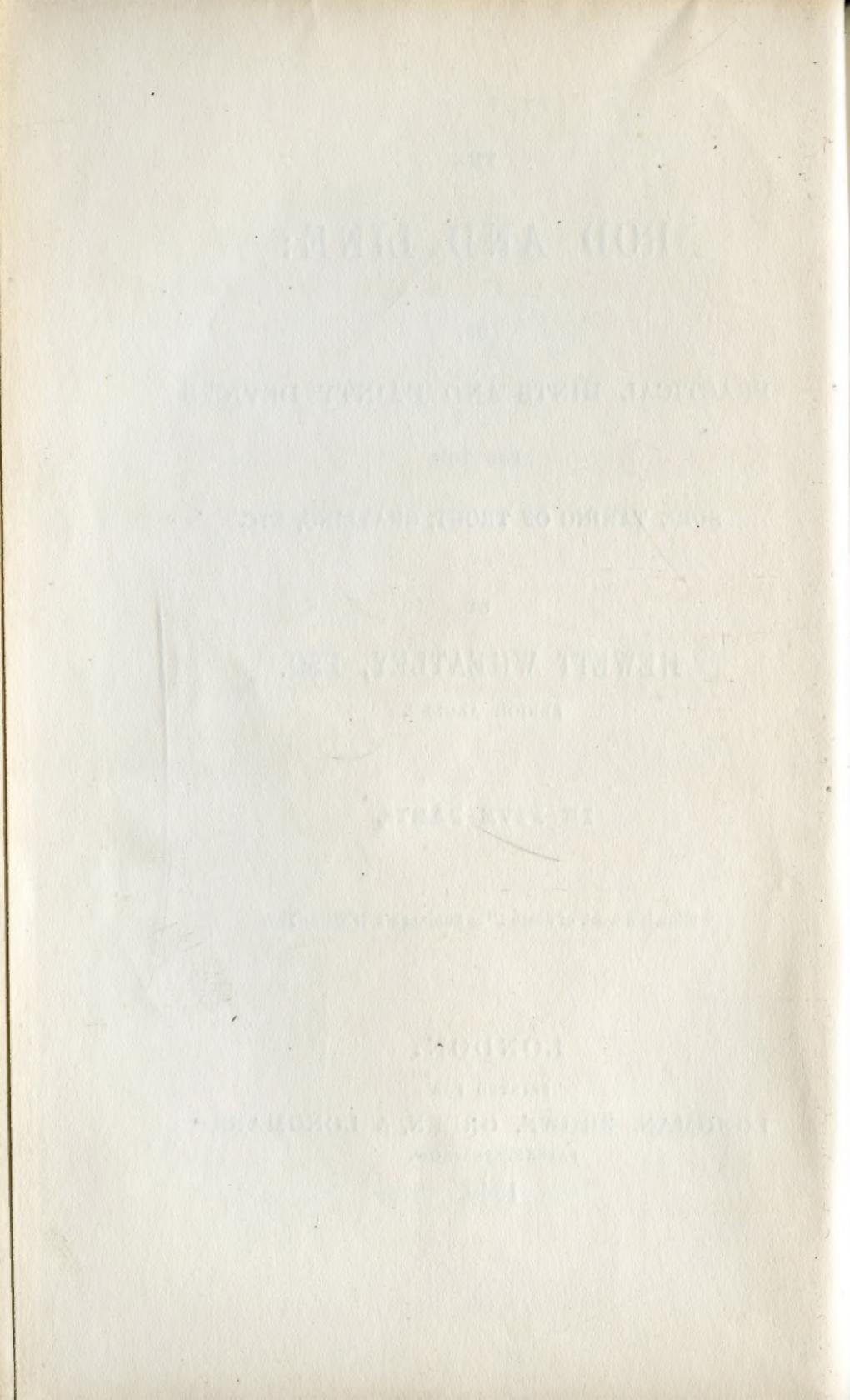
LONDON:
SPOTTISWOODES and SHAW,
New-street-Square.

THE
ROD AND LINE:
OR,
PRACTICAL HINTS AND DAINTY DEVICES
FOR THE
SURE TAKING OF TROUT, GRAYLING, ETC.
BY
HEWETT WHEATLEY, ESQ.
SENIOR ANGLER.

IN FIVE PARTS.

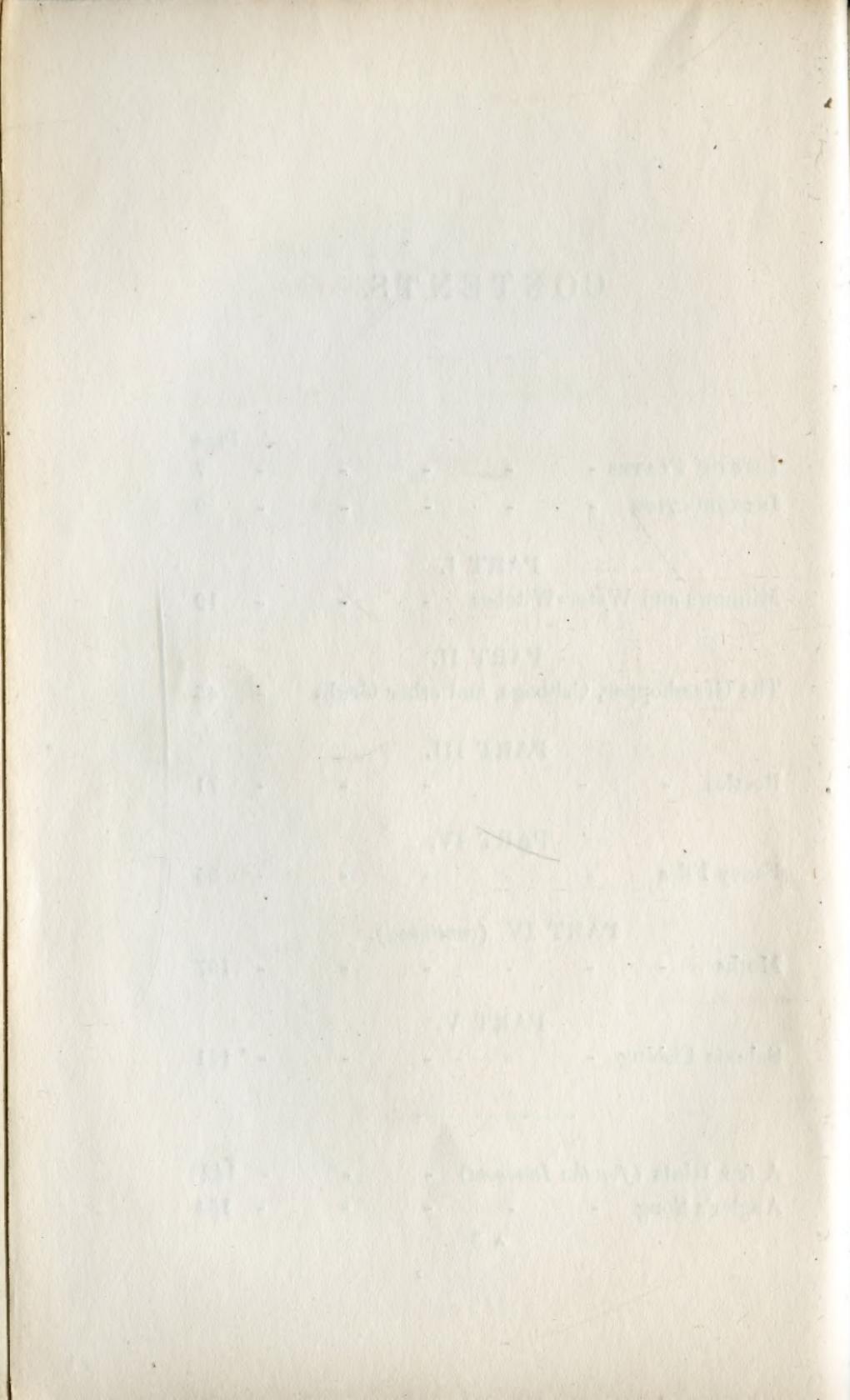
“ Mine is a work of death !” — SCHILLER’S *William Tell*.

LONDON:
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1849.



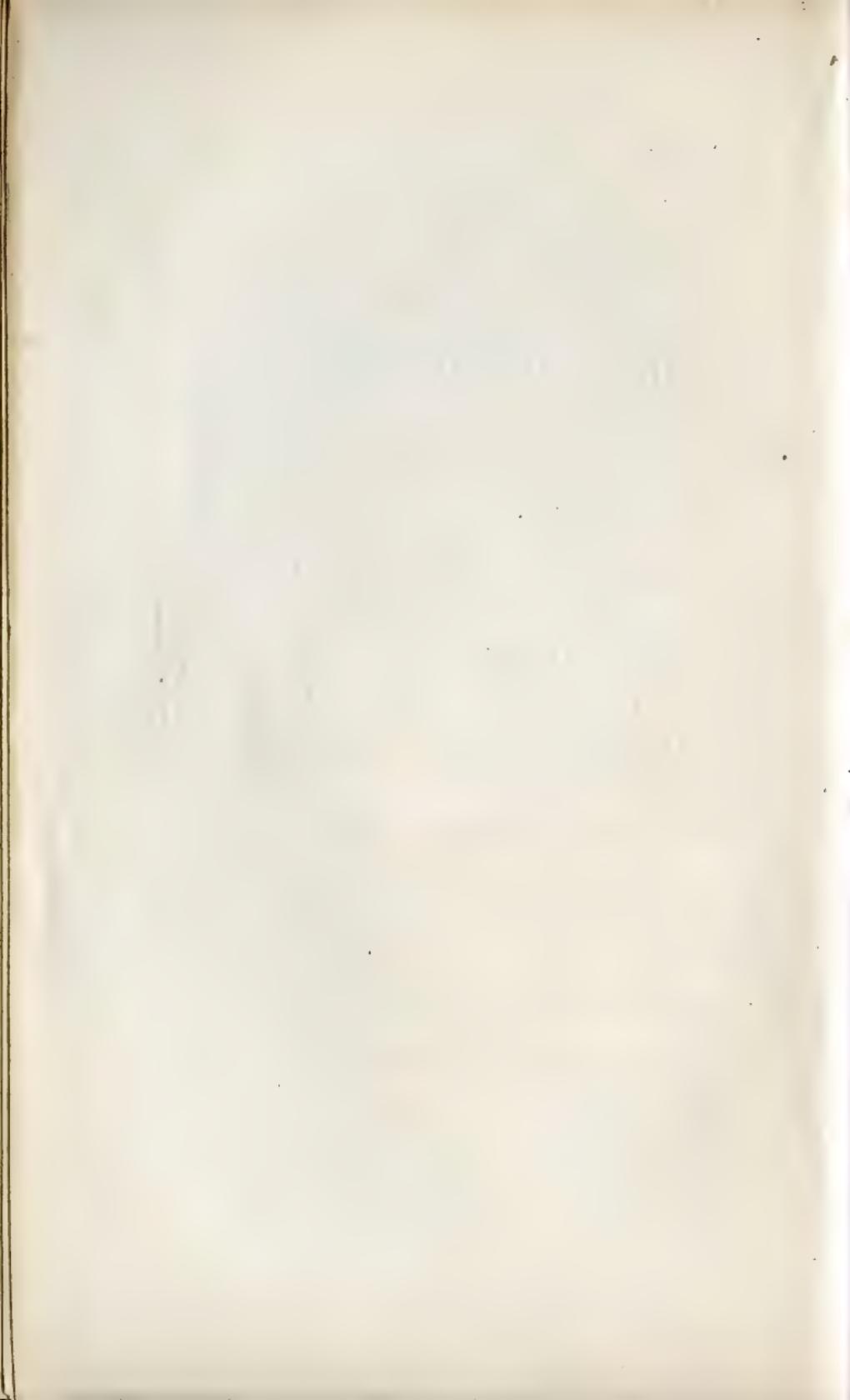
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INTRODUCTION.

OBSTINACY is the vice of little minds; *Credulity*, the failing of little experience; and *Prejudice*, a villainous compound of both.

“The force of Nature could no further go :
To form a third, she join’d the other two.”

“Why do you persevere in using that fly,
when nothing will look at it ?” said I.

Obstinacy went on thrashing the water with
greater vigour than ever.

“Why do you persevere in using that fly ?”
said I.

“I read of its being good,” said *Credulity*.

“Why do you persevere in using that fly ?”
said I.

“I hate all your new inventions,” said *Prejudice*.

“No doubt,” said I, and took a copious pinch
of rappee.

Obstinacy, Credulity, and Prejudice looked hard at me, but they could make nothing of it.

Dear, good, kind Reader ! listen to *Experience*. I pray thee shun the *soi-disant* firmness of *Obstinacy*, the ready belief of *Credulity*, and the unwilling mind of *Prejudice*. These are kindred spirits, who prevent the progress of improvement, and make their victims ridiculous. To the right understanding of even the most trifling subject, it is necessary to bring an unbiassed mind. Yet how often do men ask a friend's opinion, predetermined, at all hazards, to follow their own notions !

Amongst my readers I may have *Obstinacy, Credulity, and Prejudice*. These are not good disciples of the gentle craft; but if, after reading my little book, they choose to make a trio fishing party, taking *Experience* as their guide, I will venture to say that *Credulity* will have the heaviest basket, for I have had the advantage of a long course of instruction under that celebrated conductor, who has not objected to correct my sheets for me.

My book may, in some measure, be considered a sequel to Mr. Ronalds's "Flyfisher's Entomology." Most admirably has he fulfilled his intentions, by producing the best work extant on the imitation of the *natural fly*. But as I consider that much deserving the angler's notice remains untold by Mr. Ronalds, the ensuing remarks are intended as a continuation of his book; not an extension of the entomological part, but an addition to the fisherman's means of successfully pursuing his favourite sport. Mr. Ronalds has confined himself wholly to *nature*. The angler, though generally an enthusiastic admirer of nature, yet uses—and with the greatest success, too—many flies (so called) and other devices wherewith nature has nothing whatever to do. These anomalies are, however, found to beguile the tenants of the stream when the charms of nature fail,—a sort of Cayenne to a jaded appetite; or, perhaps, the fish are endowed with a kind of human-like craving after novelty. It is a well-known fact, which may be observed by carefully watching Trout through the crevices of any wooden

bridge over a trout-stream, that they take into their mouths many things by way of experiment, which they immediately reject. I suspect that they would, if we gave them time, very frequently reject our artificial flies. Thirty years' experience tells me, that Salmon, Trout, and Grayling—the three only fish really deserving the notice of the angler and the application of his skill—are to be induced to try a change of element on their constitutions, by presenting to their notice certain inventions which often bear no similitude to the natural productions of either earth or water.

Considerable manual dexterity is required to produce a good imitation of the natural insect, and the acquisition of this art is a pleasant and interesting accomplishment. In this manufacture *colour* must be minutely attended to, for it is a demonstrated fact, that fish rise at *colour*. Imitate never so closely the form and general character of the fly at which the fish are rising,—if the *colour be wanting*, you will have no sport.

You need not, good brother of the rod, take

this on the word of an old fisherman: take personal experience; try the contrary, but not too long, for an empty pannier is an unpleasing subject for reflection at an inn. Above all things, then, select the colour of the insects on which the fish are feeding.

Worm, paste, and all bottom fishing which demands stationary propensities in their slave, I hold in utter contempt and abhorrence; nor would I be guilty of trying to teach any such abominations, neither attempt to confirm the more mature, in spite of our amiable master, ancient Isaac.

That the “Jury of a dozen flies,” written about by our ancestors, may have condemned a few fins to death, I cannot dispute; but I believe they were mercifully pleased to acquit forty-nine out of every fifty that were arraigned before them. The moderns are not so merciful.

But there are other baits besides flies, which the angler need not scorn; nay, I may venture to assert, by whose aid he will many a time and oft astonish both the natives of the

earth and water, at times and seasons when the mighty inhabitants of earth have hitherto been obliged to admit the petty dwellers in the stream to be their superiors in intelligence.

This, too, can be done in a sportsmanlike and artistical manner ; for, although fly-fishing deservedly occupies the highest place in the Fisherman's Calendar, yet are there other branches, without an acquaintance with which the fly-fisher would lose many a day's sport ; sport which requires quite as fine tackle and quite as much skill as the most adroit user of the fly must exercise, if he intend that success shall wait on endeavour.

For him who sat cosily by the side of the river watching his float, all unconscious that a swallow had perched on the end of his rod, and was there quietly making its toilet — for him and his followers, I write not. The Author's intention is to instruct the uninitiated reader in those things which relate principally to the fabrication and use of flies and artificial baits, surpassed by none in their killing propensities, and some of them hitherto unequalled. The

tyro will thus possess the means of shortening his period of probation ; for, by adopting the baits and rules set forth in the following chapters, he will the sooner become an expert catcher of fish. Even he who has already been admitted into piscatorial mysteries may probably here find something he knew not before ; for those of the writer's inventions which are now, for the first time, made public, have insured by flood, if not by field, many a good hour's sport to himself and his friends.



PART I.

B



MINNOWS.

That juggling fiend, who never spake before,
But cries "I warned thee!" when the deed is o'er.

BYRON.

BEFORE entering upon any particulars of the "gentle craft," I must earnestly entreat all Brothers of the Angle to remember a Golden Rule, which ought to be inscribed on every fishing-rod. It is this,—

NEVER THROW YOUR FLY, OR PUT YOUR BAIT INTO THE WATER, WITHOUT EXPECTING A FISH. It is said, that care will kill a cat: I can answer for it, that care *has* killed, and *will* kill, many a thousand brace of fish.

And now for some of the subsidiary Practical Hints, promised in the Title-page.

I have headed this part with the word Minnows, merely because it will be found to treat of *spinning baits*;—the various devices which form this class being generally known under

the appellation of Minnows, though, in nearly all instances, the bright little Minnow has been most unmercifully parodied. Were it but endowed with man's proud prerogative, speech, would it not uplift its tiny voice against those eccentricities, at whose baptism it has been forced to stand godfather by proxy? "Truth is strange — stranger than fiction." In the present instance, however, the Minnow is a pretty, little, lively fellow, having nothing strange about him; but the fictions thereon founded are strange indeed. The poet's *monstrum horrendum, informe ingens cui lumen ademptum*, is not more remarkable than the angler's Minnows. Fishermen may, perhaps, have fixed upon the Minnow as the generic of his tribe; and thus, as Nature sometimes produces monstrosities, anglers have given to the world extraordinary variations on the original: and, what is more extraordinary still, some of their oddities are admirably adapted for the purpose designed.

Montaigne has something to the effect that every kind of creature has a certain claim to

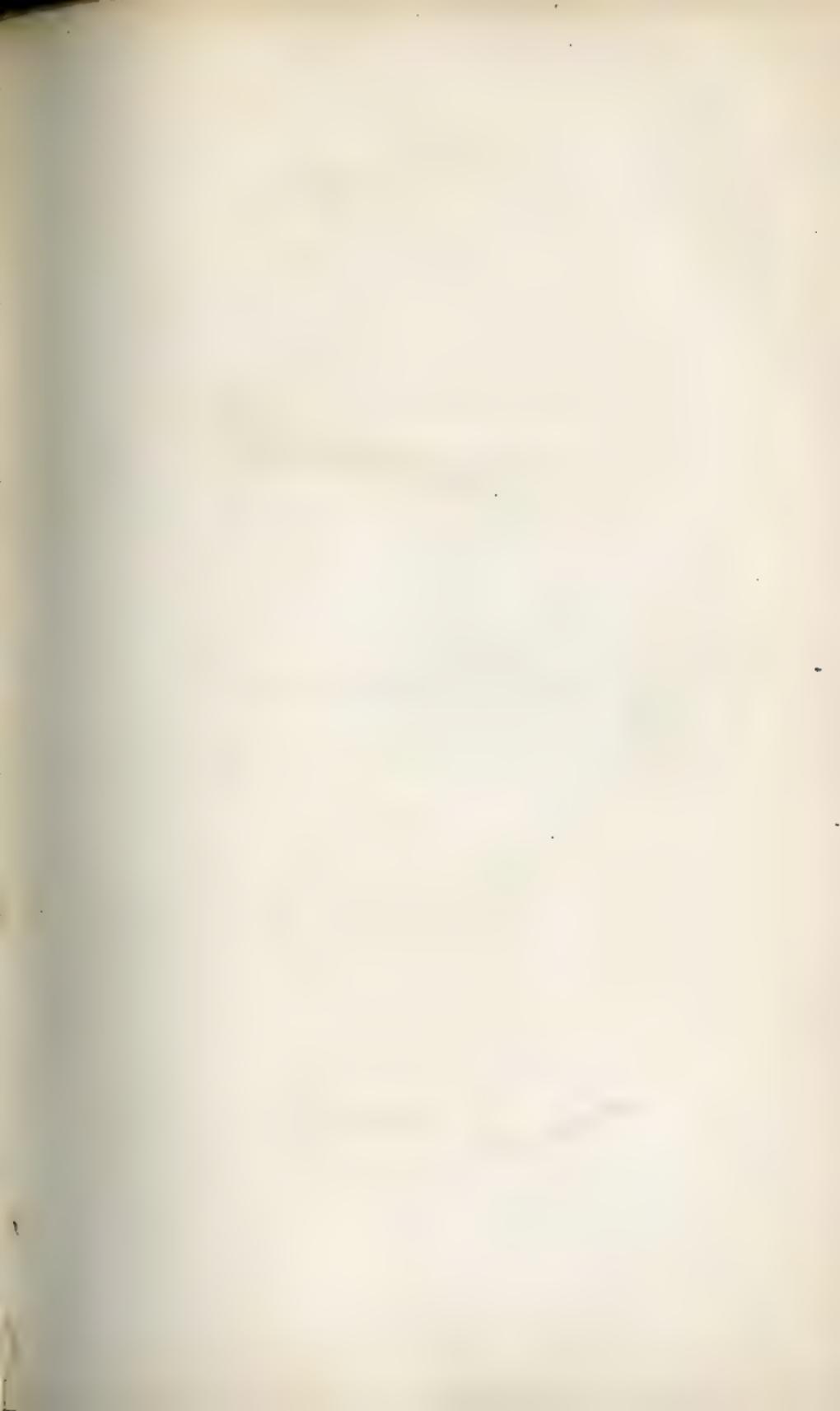


PLATE. 1

1



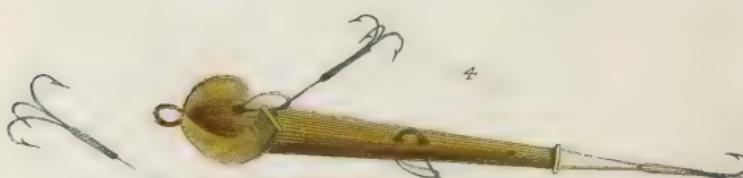
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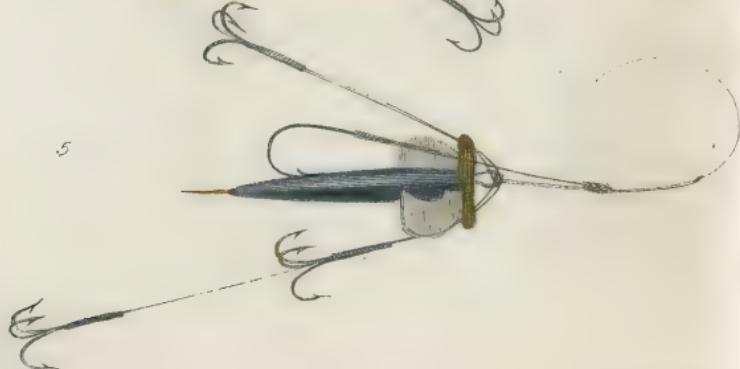
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4



5



our tenderness and benevolence. I think so too, and would, therefore, avoid the cruelty of either threading a fine, lively worm on a hook, or even of killing fish, as mere baits for other fish. Our forefathers may stand more excused for this practice than ourselves; since, in their days, the admirable imitations and inventions of modern times were, of course, unknown.

By what distinctive appellation to designate the specimens given in Plate I., figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, I know not. The adopter may apply any name he fancies, and, lest he should have none at hand, Water-witch will answer the purpose, and be correctly expressive too, for nothing so witching was ever before made acquainted with water; as far, at least, as trout-fishing is concerned.

With these have I killed more fish than with either the real Minnow or any artificial bait of the kind I ever used.

The experience of every angler must have thoroughly impressed upon his mind the fact, that even with the real Minnow he has missed very many more fish than he has killed. Now,

with these Water-witches I have killed, and seen killed by others, very many more fish than have been missed. Incredible as this may sound, it is strictly true, and is attributable, I apprehend, to two things only :

The spinning apparatus being placed at the head instead of at the tail; and

The method of arranging the hooks.

The excellence of these two things is very obvious. First, as regards the spinning of the bait.

I do not mean to assert that its rotatory motion through the water is *quicker* than where the tail is made the momentum--supposing that tail to be large enough, and the Minnow properly weighted.

The tails of all the artificial Minnows, Kill-devils, or by whatever name they may be known, antecedent to those hereafter to be described, are often in the way, not of a *run*, but of a *catch*. Although a fish of prey, whether Trout, Jack, Perch, or Eel, invariably swallows his *bonne bouche* head foremost, and consequently seizes his prey either by the middle,

as the Jack, or as near the head as possible, like the Trout; yet the artificial tail, extending beyond the sides of the body, often touch him, when about to strike the bait. Finding such an unaccustomed reception, he incontinently retreats, leaving the sportsman disgusted at his artificial bargain. When this tail is rendered unnecessary, the first intimation the fish receives of something more *piquant* than he expected, are the thorns of the rose, the hooks, precisely what Piscator wishes.

Now, with the Water-witch tribe, the spinning part may be made much larger than in any other artificial Minnow, without risk of obtruding its hardness on the sensibility of the Trout's jaws. They spin all the better for being of tolerable size, and proving no impediment to hooking the fish, are rather to be preferred large than small.

The second great point in favour of the Water-witches is—

The arrangement of the hooks.

The chief secret of artificial Minnow fishing is, *that the hooks stand well out from the body of*

the bait, a matter which cannot be accomplished, save by the tackle to be presently explained, in any thing like the same perfection, with the artificial Minnow hitherto used. Look at the artificial baits commonly sold. In many cases the hooks are absolutely *tied*, or in some other way *fastened down*, to the thing used as a bait! or even when left free, when what is called flying tackle, a set of triple hooks, hanging loose, is adopted, a similar thing occurs; for, in drawing through the water, they cling pertinaciously to the bait. If you do not choose to take my word for this, just try the difference.

In *real* Minnow-fishing, the objection I have made to the hard, curved tail, is at an end.

True.

Whence, then, comes it that so many fish are lost when using the real Minnow?—Beyond all question, by—

The bad-arrangement of the hooks.

I have applied the same principle to the real Minnow as to the artificial bait. Place the hooks on a real Minnow as you will—except with my apparatus (Plate I., fig. 5.),—and they

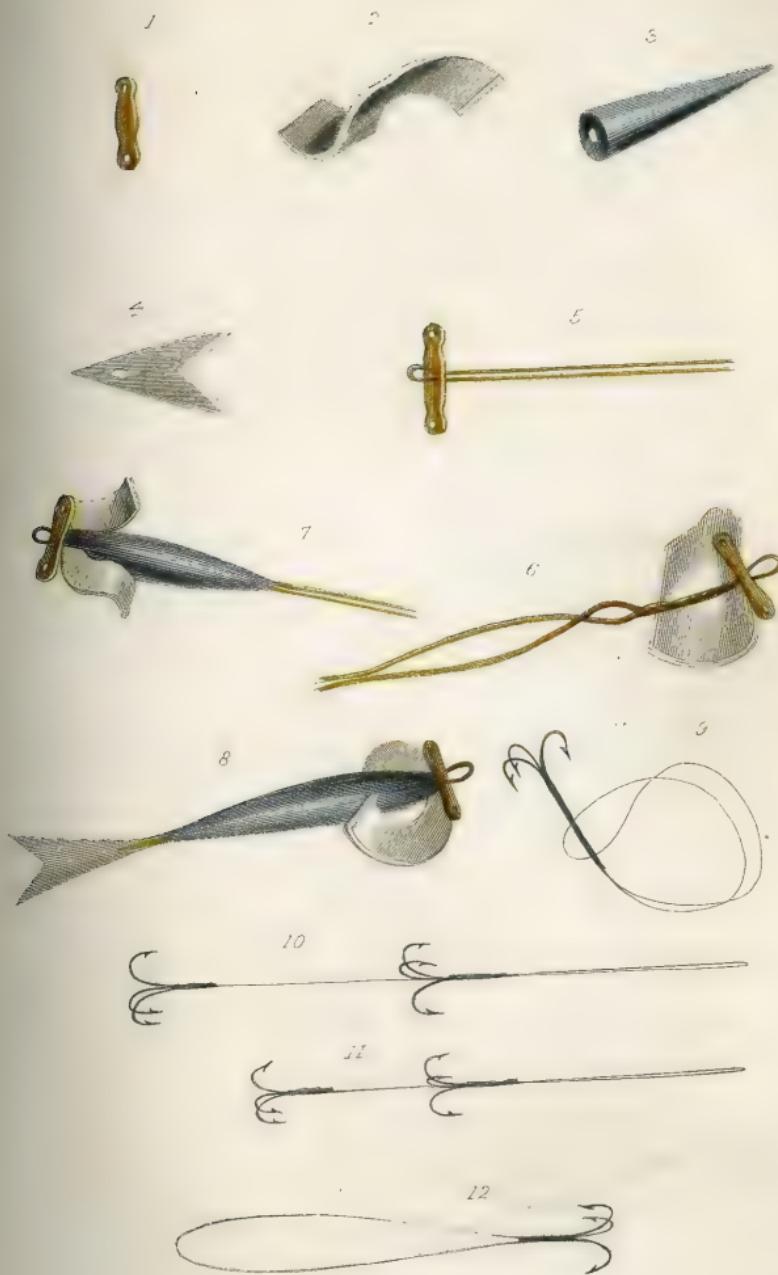
must, in their transit through the water, cling close, or nearly so, to the body of the bait-fish. To one who knows nothing of angling, this may seem wholly unimportant, provided the points and barbs are not absolutely buried in, or lie close upon, the scales of the bait. But well do many anglers know, that the chief reason why a Trout is not hooked, when he actually lays hold of the Minnow, is, in most cases, because the hooks hug the Minnow so lovingly as to allow the Trout to shake both bait and hooks out of his mouth, the moment he has seized them. And this is a common cause why, out of twenty runs, ten fish are rarely killed.

With the exception of Colonel Hawker's plan, no other is worthy of consideration. And I think it not improbable, that, could he have made the Minnow spin by placing the hooks on *both* sides, he would have done so. But, curve the tail or body in whatever way you will, you cannot make it revolve quickly and well, if the hooks be placed on both sides. Make it spin by means of the *head* instead of the *tail*, and you may cover both back, belly,

and sides with hooks, leaving the Minnow perfectly straight; yet it will spin admirably. Place the hooks, either in equal or unequal proportions, on both sides, leaving the spinning part *behind* them, and they create such resistance in the water, as to prevent the revolving intention from being carried into effect. But, when the spinning machinery is *before* the hooks, the water, falling *first* on that machinery, drives round both bait and hooks with rapidity.

And now for the manufacture and arrangement of these baits.

Double a piece of tolerably thick gut, and affix two or three triple hooks (*vide* Plate II., fig. 10.). Double another piece, something shorter, attaching only one or two triple hooks, (Plate II., fig. 11.). Fasten them to the artificial bait (fig. 1. Plate I.), by passing one of the loops of gut, to which the hooks have been previously tied, through the upper hole in the brass (fig. 1.). In like manner, pass the loop of the other piece of gut through the lower hole. You will now find these two loops parallel to that formed by the wire which passes through the bait. Take





a length of gut, looped at both ends, and insinuate one end through each of the three parallel loops (the two of gut, and the one of wire). Pass the hitherto unemployed loop of the single piece of gut, through that with which you have just taken up the three parallel loops. Draw tight; press the hooks into the position they assume in fig. 1. Plate I., when all will be finished and secure.

In explanation, this may sound somewhat complicated; in practice, it is scarcely an affair of thirty seconds—presupposing the hooks to have been tied before.

The manufacture of the bait is a much longer process, and may be thus accomplished.

Prepare a piece of brass, which, when finished, shall be of the size and shape of fig. 1. Plate II., drilled with two small holes near the centre; and one, more than double the size, at each end. Pass a piece of brass wire, doubled, through the two small holes in the centre, (*vide* fig. 5.). Form the spinning apparatus (fig. 2.) either of thin tin, or of thick, transparent horn.

To prepare the horn for this purpose, soak it

for a few seconds in hot water. Cut it into the required shape; and, while in a soft state, from the warm bath wherewith it has been treated, bend it, by means of round pliers, into the necessary form.

Lay the tin or the horn, thus prepared, between the wire, and, by twisting this wire with flat pliers, it will be held tightly against the drilled brass (*vide* fig. 6.). Next, pass a piece of lead fig. 3., cast with a hole through it, over the wire, bringing it close to the drilled brass. Form it into the requisite shape (fig. 7.). Cut out a small tail of transparent horn (which may be thinner than the wings) with a hole at the narrow end (fig. 4.). Force the wire through this hole; and, with pliers and file, form it into fig. 8. The lead need not be as long as the Minnow, as it is preferable to keep the greatest weight at the head. To make, therefore, the shape of the body, fill up the distance between the head and the tail with worsted, wool, or any soft material. Gutta Percha, softened in hot water, will answer the purpose. Cover the whole either with Gutta

Percha or white leather. Paint and varnish, and you will have fabricated fig. 1. Plate I., — the perfect Water-witch.

I can safely pledge my word, that this is, without any exception, the most destructive artificial Minnow ever presented to the gastronomic propensities of the Trout.

It may be applied, with equal efficiency, to Jack-fishing. But where very large hooks are used, and coarse tackle, almost any method of baiting will answer. But with Trout it is widely different. Small hooks and fine gut require a management very far removed from that demanded by huge hooks and gimps.

The killing properties of the bait consist, chiefly, in being able to cover it with hooks on BOTH sides; yet enabling it to spin with the greatest velocity; and, at the same time, the hooks revolving AT A SHORT DISTANCE from the bait.

The intention of the drilled brass, through which the gut passes, whereon the hooks are tied, is for the double purpose of keeping them from adhering close to the body, and to prevent, as much as possible, those on one side from

becoming entangled with those on the other, when in use. That they will sometimes entangle appears to me unavoidable. But this chiefly happens when the gut has become worn, and ought no longer to be used.

Remember, it is most essential that the hooks be kept *away from the body of the bait*. When therefore, the gut is so far worn as to make them hang close to the Minnow, change it instantly, if you would continue your sport: for which purpose be always prepared with several sets of hooks in your case. They scarcely require more time to affix, at the water's side, than to change a fly. The most expeditious method for performing this operation has been already explained.

If you omit to observe this proceeding, blame not me for want of diversion. But if you abide strictly by the above injunctions, I can fearlessly affirm, that you will not only have as many runs as at the real Minnow, if not more—for it spins most attractively,—but you will kill, at the very least, double the number of fish.

I have applied the same principle to the real Minnow, which is of course equally killing (*vide* fig. 5., Plate I.). A short piece of brass wire will be seen extending beyond the fine end of the lead. Insert this in the Minnow's mouth, drawing the head of the fish *close up to the brass*, where secure it by forcing the *single* hook, marked (a) in fig. 5., into the flesh of the Minnow, near the setting on of the head. The whole will then be precisely the same as in the artificial representation (fig. 1.). The single hook is tied to a short piece of gut, and knotted on to a length to which the traces are attached.

The act of baiting, by this contrivance, is very much shorter than by any other now practised; and whatever tends to the economy of time is so far valuable, that we enjoy or profit, as the case may be, by the amount of time economised, just so much more than the idle watcher of those fearful demolitions accomplished by old *Edax Rerum*.

Fig. 2. of Plate I. is the Miller's Thumb, treated in the same manner as the Minnow. I mean an artificial bait, bearing some resemblance

to that wide-mouthed, flat-headed aquatic. Its beauty, though not quite apparent to us, would no doubt be admired by some of the savage tribes who, looking upon flat foreheads as the *ne plus ultra* of loveliness, produce, in their offspring, that peculiar formation, by other than Nature's aid. Trout show something of the savage propensity, for they often exhibit a great predilection for the Miller's Thumb, or Bull-head.

In figs. 3. and 4. of Plate I. are represented others of the Water-witch tribe, not much inferior to the former, and, as a change of colour and arrangement of hooks, will be found a valuable addition to the angler's Minnow establishment.

Turn, file, or cast brass into the required shape; whether serpentine, as fig. 3., or straight, as fig. 4. Drill two holes, almost close together, near the head, two more near the middle of the body, but rather inclining towards the head end, and one near the tail. Form the spinning apparatus of the same shape as for the previously described baits (figs. 1. and 2.),

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only of thin sheet brass, and solder it into a nick sawn lengthways into the brass at the head or thicker end. A rivet will, perhaps, answer better than solder.

To mount these, take a thick piece of gut or thinner twisted, (I prefer tolerably thick salmon gut, for mounting all minnows), bend it into a loop, and tie on a triple hook (*vide fig. 12. Plate II.*). Let the loop be of such length, as that when passed through the *upper* of the two holes, and then through the one immediately below, you shall only be *just able* to pass the loop over the hook (*fig. 9.*). Take hold of the hook, and draw it into the position exhibited in *fig. 4. Plate I.* Here you will observe that the loop, acting as a kind of lever, keeps the hook from lying flat upon the body of the bait. Repeat this process with the two holes in the middle, only beginning on the opposite side of the brass, else would the two treble hooks be on the *same* side. Now pass a piece of thick single, or twisted gut, through the hole near the tail end. Tie it down to the brass, and then fasten

on another hook, so as to extend perhaps half an inch beyond the extremity of the brass. This done, you will have the bait, fig. 4.

I very commonly use another and quicker mode of baiting these. Tie precisely the same tackle as for figs. 1. and 2. Drill only one hole in the brass Minnow, and let that be as *near the head as possible*. Pass the loop of one of the sets of tackle through this hole. Press that part of the loop which has gone through, on a level with the hole previously drilled in the wing. Perform the same operation on the other side the Minnow, and with the other set of tackle. With a single length of gut, looped at both ends, take up and secure this arrangement of the tackle, in exactly the same manner as described in the case of the Water-witches, figs. 1. and 2. (*vide* fig. 3. Plate I.)

The two sets of hooks may be laid flat upon the Minnow, on both sides, without employing the agency of the hole near the head. But, in throwing, they will become entangled every moment, and lie close to the Minnow,—an effect which, above all others, is to be avoided,

and which is accomplished by means of the hole, the position of which has been just described.

That in these instances, as well as in the former, the gut will wear out by friction against the brass, and the hooks then come close to the body, there can be no doubt. What then?— Use fresh sets; and never be induced to go to the river without several, ready prepared, for replacing those that have become so far worn out.

The greater your sport, the more frequently should you change the tackle; for the struggling of the fish materially aids in fraying the gut.

There is one very important fact connected with angling, and most peculiarly conspicuous in Minnow-fishing, which may as well be mentioned here. It is this,—that with *change of colour*, you will frequently kill a fish that you have missed, and consequently *startled*, by a bait of a different hue. If you try him with the same colour with which you previously deceived him, that previous deception will not soon be forgotten; and he will therefore keep

himself out of the way of mischief, when the deceiving colour shall be again presented to him.

As a variation on the brass Minnows, anoint one of them with novargent,—a chemical preparation, which will convert the brass into silver: or, at least, into the similitude of silver,—for I dabble not in transmutation of metals. Should a good fish have been missed with one, try the other. I have, however, more frequently killed, on these occasions, with a *black* bait; the colour being so totally different from any with which the fish has been already deceived, he will commonly snap at it fearlessly. I have used one made of ebony, but it is too light; and I have found it preferable to stain or paint a brass serpentine Minnow black. A friend, and an excellent fisherman, gave me this hint. He took Trout in a lake in Wales, with *leeches* in their gullets. And I am now satisfied that a leech will, in most, if not in all, waters, take fish. The brass, being bent into a serpentine form, and made black, is no despicable representation of a leech.

Though Trout certainly appear to be ena-

moured of these things, they are but ugly beasts. I suppose, however, that, in matters of beauty, we must let "each eye negotiate for itself."

A very small artificial Eel, from two to three inches long, ranks as high, in the writer's estimation, as the Water-witch (fig. 1.).

It may be made of either lead or brass. I prefer the latter, when of sufficient thickness to be tolerably weighty; because the whole affair being solid,—no tail to fix on, and the spinning part firmly rivetted, it is far more durable. Let this be twisted, as I have described for the leech, and painted dark on the back, and a bluish-grey on the under side.

After all I have said on the subject, I wish only to insist principally on two points: whatever kind of Minnow you use, let the spinning apparatus be at the *head*; and so arrange the hooks that they stand well *off from the body*.

If you do not adopt these plans, and are desirous to catch your own fish for dinner, you may often be driven to some such expedient, to please your fish-loving palate, as the King of Bithynia's cook was, in the service of his master.

The passage is thus recorded in the “Curiosities of Literature :”—

“The King of Bithynia, in some expedition against the Scythians, in the winter, and at a great distance from the sea, had a violent longing for a small fish called *aphy*, a pilchard, a herring, or an anchovy. His cook cut a turnip to the perfect imitation of its shape; then fried in oil, salted, and well powdered with the grains of a dozen black poppies. His Majesty’s taste was so exquisitely deceived, that he praised the root to his guests as an excellent fish!”

Of what did duty for the bones the writer makes no mention; and much I fear me the art of making turnip-fish is unknown to us degenerate moderns, for the cook of Bithynia’s king, in the jealousy of his trade, no doubt omitted, in his receipt, some principal ingredients.

With regard to Trout, there is a very curious fact—he will take a spinning bait even in the midst of living Minnows. This singularity must have been noticed by many as well as by myself. It has been accounted for, and from my own observation I think correctly, by sup-

posing that a fish of prey will sooner seize upon a brother in distress, a wounded fish, than upon any other; because it is most easily captured. This presupposes something of a human, not humane, feeling; and was exemplified in perfection when I was at school—that blessed time of birch before breakfast, drubbings before dinner, and tears before tea. A poor, friendless boy was the butt of the school; and, whenever he was knocked down, uprose the cry of “Oh! kick him! what fun! he’s no friends!” And this seems to be the case among other animals. In domestic poultry, the injured hen is pecked at on all sides; the wounded stag is driven from the herd, to die in solitude. The unfortunate of the feathered, furred, and every other race, are either scorned or hunted, often both.

The scaly tribe affords no exception. I have several times seen a Minnow or small Dace, that was either marked by some accident, or had—no doubt from injury of one kind or other—an odd, waddling sort of motion in swimming, seized upon by a Trout, in the midst of its fellows, who were in full health, vigour, and

beauty; close past all of whom rushed the fish of prey, and gobbled up his damaged morsel with great apparent gusto.

I may say of these Water-witches, as Byron does on a very different occasion—

“ ‘Tis true, they are a lawless brood,
And rough in form.”

They are, however, very like the domestic man, who makes himself at home everywhere! They adapt themselves to all waters and all states of the water, save the very dirtiest; care no more for wet or dry than so many armadillos — no more for sunshine or shade than the under side of a sundial; and, though they love not to sport

“ O'er the glad waters,”

yet *in* them they are—very Water-witches.

But to succeed even with these, it is absolutely necessary that you keep your temper. Never swear — fish love not profanity; besides, oaths have a wonderful effect in deranging the *tackle* as well as the *temper*. An eagle once made a stoop at a kid, but, missing his prey,

straightway got into a passion, and, in the blindness of his rage, made a dash at a piece of pointed rock, which latter had so much the best of it (being quite *cool*), that the eagle became food for worms. When the fisherman happens suddenly to find his tackle, as the Yankee says, "Up a tree," let him remember the eagle and the rock.

In bright, low waters I have had great sport with a sort of Minnowkin,—a minute Minnow, less than an inch long, and made of India Rubber or Gutta Percha, having only one small treble hook, hanging loose by the tail. I have used this on my fly line, as the stretcher; and once, this year, when fishing in the Test, *tested* its excellence by the production of a finer dish of fish than usually falls to the lot of even the accomplished fly-fisher; and that, too, on a bright calm day, when the fly was all but useless.

With a similar one made of lead, and used as the Grasshopper (hereafter explained), I have likewise had success of no despicable kind.

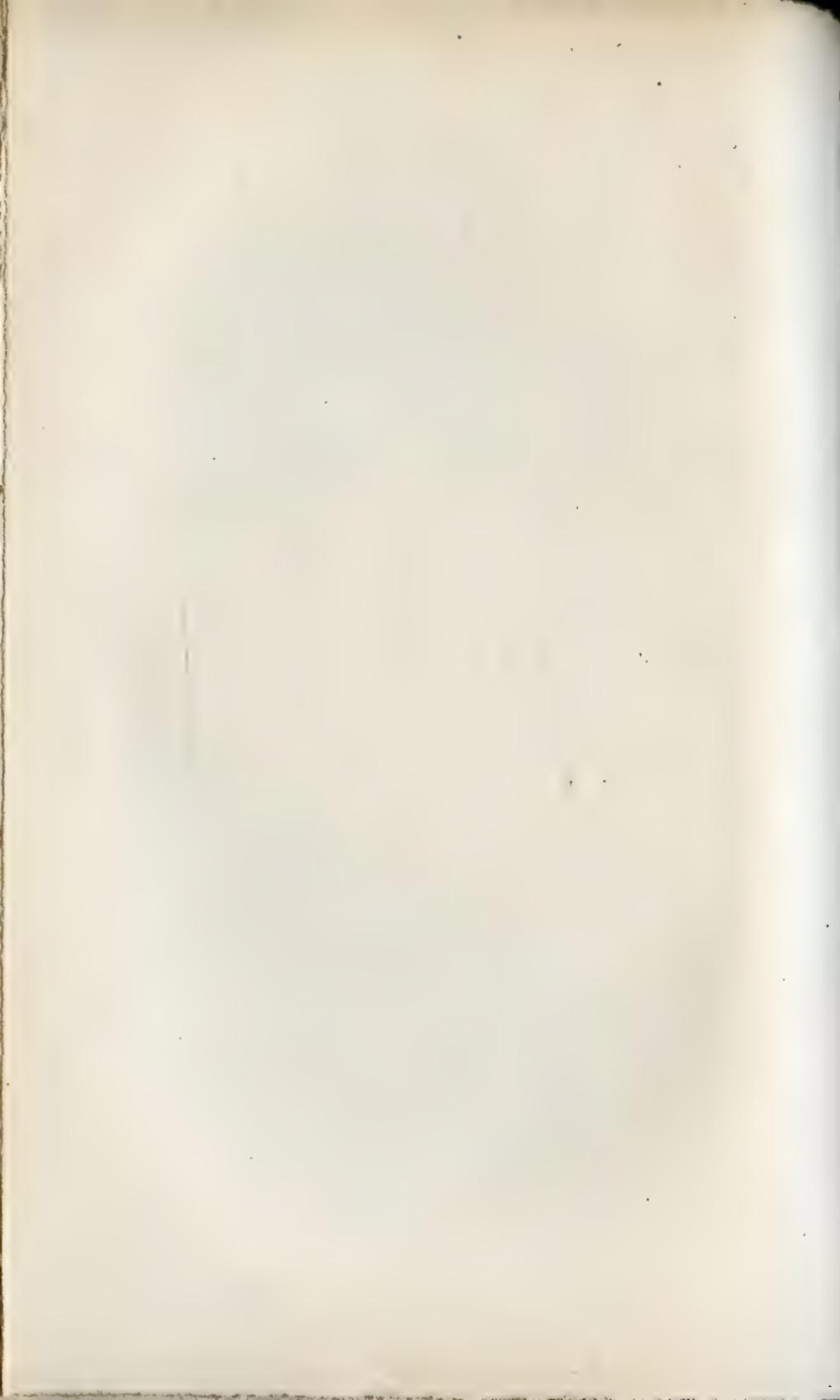
I have made them bright on one side, and

dark green on the other, with a tail of very thin horn.

When used as a fly, it is advisable to attach to the line a very fine swivel, as the spinning motion would otherwise soon injure light fly tackle.

The Rod for the usual kind of Minnow fishing should, in my opinion, be less pliable than that commonly used;— the bait being large, a pliant rod cannot so easily fix the hooks in the fish's mouth. The more the rod yields, the less likely are you to secure the fish. Wherever it is practicable, too, you should throw *up stream*; for, as a fish always lies with his head opposing the current, he has to turn round to his prey so suddenly, that he has seized the *bait* before an opportunity has been afforded him of seeing *you*. I have remarked also, that the Minnow is invariably pursued, and taken more *eagerly*, when drawn with, rather than against, the stream: the fish is, therefore, more liable to be hooked, than when he attacks his food with greater deliberation.

PART II.



THE GRASSHOPPER, CABBAGE, AND OTHER GRUBS.

THE Lady of Avenel's waiting-woman says, "I have lived too long with *gentles*—I praise my stars for it—to fight with either follies or fantasies."

A wise woman, a wise woman, was the Lady of Avenel's maiden. Let those who love gentle, *real* gentle fishing, pursue their calling. I will humbly imitate the lady's maid, and abstain from fighting with their fantasies.

Without attempting to combat their predilection for the loathsome, I may be allowed to say that a bit of chenille, twisted on a bit of gut, and stuck on either the single or triple hooks of the baits exhibited in Plate III., will answer every purpose of the real maggot; and that a little red-brown silk, covering a couple of inches of common twine, and serpined about the grubs of Plate III., will accomplish

precisely the same duty as the living worm. If you rib this with yellowish straw-colored silk, you will have the Brandling, reputed to be the best worm used.

Though Fly-fishing is certainly the most elegant part, and a productive one too, of the angler's art, yet is it often annoying enough to go forth on an expedition, and not find a single fin inclined to raise the body whereto it belongs half-a-foot from the bottom of the river. In this case, the baits of Plate III. are eminently serviceable. And even when fish *are* rising, a well-filled basket often rewards him who uses them.

To the lovers of Fly-fishing, and I confess myself to be one of them, other kinds may seem coarse or stupid. I have already endeavoured to show the reader that Minnow-fishing is neither the one nor the other; and if he will have patience, perhaps he may find it the same with other devices. At any rate, I will lay before him nothing but truths; and should he then find artificial Grub-fishing either coarse or stupid, I can only say—

“ Unbiass’d, or by favour, or by spite,
Not dully prepossess’d, nor blindly right,”

let him try an amateur fisherman’s inventions, before he pass judgment on theory. Nay, though he may be a most determined and skilful fly-fisher, he will find that to succeed with these Artificial Baits, he must use as fine tackle, and bring to bear quite as much skill, as in the successful use of the fly.

He must likewise be endowed with what has been called, *par excellence*, the fisherman’s virtue — Patience; for many deem some patience necessary when fish are not in the humour to feed; and, perhaps, a little when the gut assumes all kinds of fantastic knottings and twistings, just as you are about to make a noble fellow “ stand and deliver; ” and, perhaps too, a little when the rain begins to intrude on the privacy of the pocket where snuff-box and handkerchief are kept. Patience, indeed! Why, if the fish refuse to feed, so would you if you wanted not food; then what a blockhead you must be to show impatience at a fish, for the very thing which your own

conduct would sanction. When the gut shall exhibit a Gordian Knot affair of graceful curvings — what is then your casting line but Hogarth's Line of Beauty? The rain in your pocket — what then? like money in the spend-thrift's, it can't *stay* there. Patience, indeed! Take my word for it, you may do almost anything, provided you have — what? — Patience? Not at all — *Skill*, which presupposes *Knowledge*.

The practice of artificial grub angling is not so very easy as may at first sight appear; and if I pretend to instruct, it is from the joint product of my own experience, and observation of the most expert anglers with whom I have come in contact.

To succeed in this mode of fishing, fix to the end of a fly line a yard and a half gut. In low water and bright withal, let at least the last two links, next the bait, be of the finest and very lightly coloured, just to take off the bright glare of white gut. A float, not much more than an inch long, merely made of a crow's quill, and a bit of the *white* shaft of any feather that will fit it, must be so adjusted as to be

very little below the surface of the water when the bait touches the bottom.

And thus is that bait to be managed.

Wherever you have reason to suspect the presence of fish, whether in streams or still water, drop the bait as lightly as may be, and when you feel it touch the bottom, communicate to it, by means of very slight jerks of the wrist, that momentum which will cause it to jump three or four inches at a time. Never allow it to remain still; yet let the jerks, though sharp, be short—proceeding from the *wrist*, not the whole arm, as the arm would be liable to drive the bait too far at once. Watch the action of the float with the greatest care; and, on the *slightest* deviation you observe from its direct course, strike, not *hard*, but with *great quickness*. Having alluded to the operation of “striking,” I must put the reader in possession of a fact, which does not appear to be generally known to anglers; yet it is of considerable importance as an auxiliary to success. Most fishermen strike *upwards*—exactly contrary to what ought to be practised. If the motion of strik-

ing, be *upward*, the first play of the top of the rod is *downward*; which *slackens* the line, and gives the fish an opportunity of shaking the fly out of his mouth. But in *striking downward*, the first play of the top of the rod is *upward*; which clearly, by *tightening* the line, fixes the hook instantly. I may mention, in proof of this being no mere theory, that I have often killed fish, when others were complaining that they came so short as to be scarcely felt: —a feat I consider attributable to this method of striking. In striking upward, watch the point of your rod; you will see its first inclination to be down: strike downward, and you will see it spring up;—a secret worth knowing.

A light and accustomed hand will often *feel* the fish in time to strike successfully. But I think the eye is more to be depended upon than the hand, particularly in Grayling-fishing—the bite of the Grayling being so delicate as to be often unfelt. The float—if it can be so called—is designed merely as a guide to the eye. It is to answer no purpose of showing whether the bait be at the bottom or whether it be not—the hand alone must ascertain that.

In still water or pools, cause the bait to jump a few times in the same spot. Then, incline the rod to the right, to the left, and before you, so as to fish in all directions as far as the rod will reach, never ceasing to jump the bait for one single moment. In stream or eddy, let it follow gently the course of the run, ever working it with the wrist.

Quickness of sight, or sensibility of hand, or both, are essential in prosecuting your sport with this bait, else will it prove but sport in name.

The rod, like the line and gut, should be fine. An ordinary, one-handed fly-rod, is decidedly the best, as with it you will often *feel* the fish in time to hook him; whereas, with a heavier tool, you will feel nothing— save, perchance, a stake or a root.

The *largest* Grayling are invariably taken by this mode of fishing, or with the real Maggot,—for which latter, being a more stationary and stupid affair, I have no fancy. Baiting a hole with sundry quarts of maggots, and then standing, or perchance sitting, to fish it! I would as

soon bait a mouse-trap, and watch all night for the vermin to be caught. There is, too, something peculiarly atrocious, shamefully treacherous, in seducing the fish to a certain spot, and then smiting them without mercy.

I have said the largest Grayling are invariably taken with Grasshoppers or Maggots. I merely mean that though the small fellows, which do not spawn, rise freely all the year, weather permitting, at the fly, yet the largest fish, during a whole year—except after they have spawned, and are out of condition, and never taken by the sportsman—do not rise, perhaps, six days. Indeed, I doubt whether the *very largest* ever rise: most certainly, so rare is that event, as to be not worthy consideration. But they will take the Grasshopper, Cabbage-grub, or Maggot used as above almost every day, winter and summer, that the angler can pursue his sport. Nay, even when the water is so low and the weather so bright that fly-fishing is thoroughly useless, the Grasshopper will not only reward the fisherman, but, in my belief, his reward will be greater than at any other time. When

the rivers are very full the fish have a super-abundance of food, and are not so easily tempted. They are, too, cruising about in various directions, and, even where abounding, more difficult to find.

Neither do the rigours of winter prevent sport with these baits ; for a friend and myself killed, the very first week of this year (1849), in a sharp frost, with the snow lying six inches deep, and that portion of the line which had been wet and was out of the water, converted into a long, attenuated icicle—in such weather we killed several dishes of very fine Grayling.

In connection with this subject, I may say, that a most remarkable regulation has lately been made by a club in possession of one of the best pieces of Grayling water in England. It is this : that Grasshopper fishing shall only be allowed from the 1st of October to the 1st of February !—a virtual prohibition, as few men have energy enough for winter angling : and those who have, find the large fish full of spawn in December and January ; thus, in one day, destroying more than in ten years of

summer-fishing. The Grayling has the peculiarity of never spawning till he is nearly, or perhaps quite, a pound weight. Up to this size, therefore, they are always in season, and will rise freely at a fly. The largest Grayling, or spawners, are in season from June till December; consequently, during those months they should be angled for with any bait the fair fisher will condescend to use. But since, in the club to which I have alluded, the *largest* Grayling are not allowed to be killed in summer by any member or his friends; and as few can face the severity of winter, even when the state of the water will allow the sport, the finest fish are preserved for the Otter, the Jack, and the Poacher!—a most curious regulation for a club of Grayling fishers.

A far better regulation would be, that no Grayling, more than one pound in weight, should be taken, with any bait whatever, between the 1st of December and the 1st of June: thus protecting their spawning season, and allowing sufficient time for them to become good and wholesome food.

When the fish are feeding *freely*, I am not prepared to say that fig. 2. Plate III.—where a real Grasshopper, Grub, or Worm, is placed on the point of the hook—will not kill as many as figs. 1. and 3. Even under such circumstances, I have greater faith in the latter than in the former. The fine triple hook, hanging loose from the bait, is endowed with strangely *taking* propensities. And when the Grayling are running *fine*, a very common habit, the superiority of figs. 1. and 3. requires but a single day's trial to establish. Any grub or worm may be hitched on to the triple, as well as on to the single hook.

I have had excellent sport with the first and second varieties of fig. 3. Plate III., described in page 46; and I can most strongly recommend their adoption. When the weeds are troublesome, I have killed many good Trout by guiding these baits into those narrow channels between the weeds, and formed by the weeds themselves. In such places, fine fish often lurk.

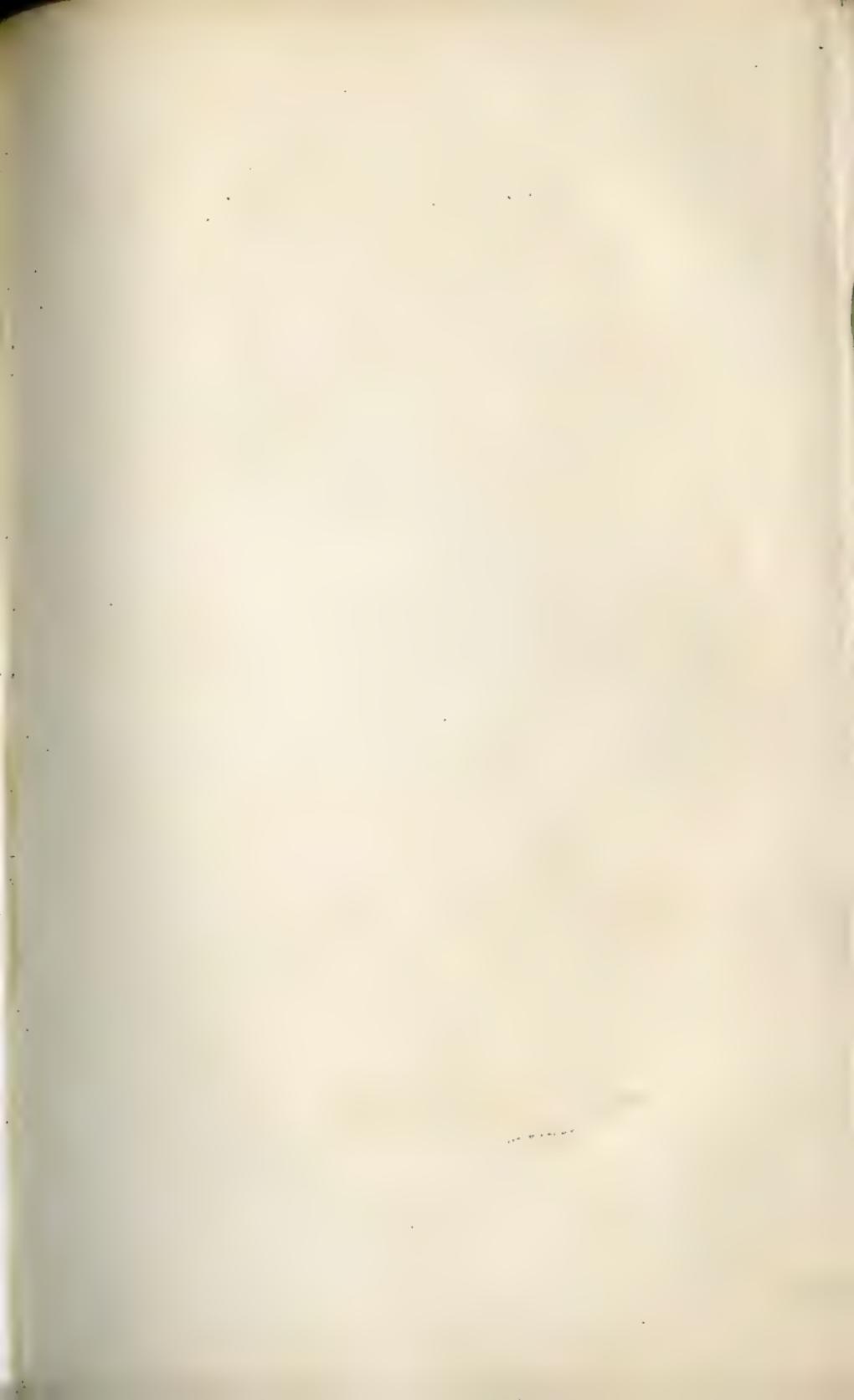
The Green Drake (fig. 4. Plate III.) is like-

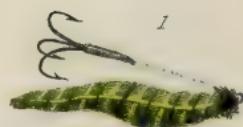
wise good, but only for a very short period. I have frequently watched Trout taking this fly most greedily, at the moment it leaves its grub state, and *before* it has risen to the surface of the water. It is to be used precisely like the Grasshopper.

Many fly-fishers must have remarked, that for a fortnight at least before the May-fly appears in any numbers, Trout do not rise so freely as before that period. And I am satisfied, from personal observation, they are then feeding on the fly, *at the bottom*, as it quits the case in which it has passed its grub existence.

Experience teaches—so saith the maxim. But with the world in general, this is a decided *non sequitur*. *Vide* a hundred and one instances within the knowledge and recollection of every body. Just so with anglers; some will not be taught by experience, and many will not give her a chance of even a single lesson.

To say that this bait, or this method of baiting, is infallible, is but the rank quackery of our advertising nostrum-mongers. A bait





that is to kill every fish that touches it, is like a pill which is to cure every complaint to which flesh is heir;—both the bait and the pill may kill some. But the baits contained in Plates I. and III. are as nearly perfect as I can contrive them; the skill of the angler must do the rest. I am, nevertheless, quite ready to adopt improvements—when demonstrated to be not mere innovations, or crude, untried fancies.

The Grasshopper is not only available in Grayling fishing, but I have killed with it Trout, Jack, Perch, and Eels. Indeed, so good a bait do I consider it for Jack, that I have always one in my Grasshopper box, tied on Gimp.

In explanation of Plate III., we will begin with fig. 1., which is thus made:—

A piece of thin brass wire is doubled, having a small eye for the admission of the gut (*vide* fig. 5.). This wire is passed through a piece of lead, varying in length from one to two inches, and so pressed upon the wire as to prevent it from turning round; the wire

being left half an inch beyond the lead at the tail end; the lead extending at the other, or head end, close to the loop, formed by doubling the wire (*vide* fig. 6.). Now bend the lead into the shape of fig. 7. A small triple hook having been previously tied to a short piece of thick gut, one end of this stout gut is next passed through the eye of the wire, and the end to which the hook is *not* attached is tied down upon the lead; working the silk from head to tail; leaving the hook, so as that, when all shall be finished, it may lie near the tail end. The *bend* of the hook may be a little lower; but not the *points*. Take one length of green worsted, not very dark, and one length two shades lighter. Tie the ends of these on the wire, close to where the lead terminates, at the tail of the grub. Make one wrap with these two lengths of worsted toward the head. Bend over that wrap the half-inch of wire which extended beyond the tail, and press it close to the lead. Go on winding the worsted over the lead, taking care not to twist it till you

reach the end near the head. Fasten it: and in so doing, warp in a strand from the peacock's tail feather, or from the black ostrich (fig. 8.). During this operation, the hook has been bent *away* from the body, as seen in figs. 7. and 8., to allow you to wind on the worsted. Press back the gut, so as that the hook shall lie near the tail of the bait; and secure it in that position by a few turns of the silk. Wind the peacock's or ostrich's herl over these turns four or five times, so as to form a head. Fasten all; and you will have fig. 1. Plate III., the most killing grub ever introduced into a stream.

Think not, kind reader—imagine not, good brother fisherman, that I *boast* (all readers are kind, often *very* kind, not to “damn with faint praise;”—all fishermen are good, often *very* good, in rendering neighbourly offices to their brethren in distress). As mere author, I might be at liberty to leave you to your own cogitations on the subject of Grasshopper fishing, and to my simple *Ipse dixit*. But I will instance a gentleman, who is one

of the best Grasshopper-fishers in England — *the* best with whom I am, or ever was, acquainted. My friend, in all branches of the art piscatorial, is fully my equal—in this, my master. Yet, with my grub just described, I will average to kill ten fish out of twelve, hooked; while, with the usual bait (to be presently explained), even he cannot ensure anything like that number. That he will kill more fish than I can, I willingly admit; for, being a more expert user of the bait, he can command a great majority of *runs*; and consequently, out of a much larger number, must, in the end, count more fins than myself. But allow us an equal share of runs, and fig. 1. will prove its superiority to fig. 2.; the usual mode of making this bait, and the one he uses. Nor will the reader think him wrong to continue its use, when he learns that in three days' fishing (one of those days consisting of only three hours), he killed a hundred and eight pounds' weight of fish! — some Trout, but chiefly Grayling.

This bait (fig. 2.) is similar to that (fig. 1.),

but made on a large single hook. Put on lead and worsted, as in the former, or cast the lead in a mould, on the shank of the hook. In binding on the worsted, warp in a piece of tolerably thick netting silk, a rather pale yellow, waxed with white wax, or dark brown silk, instead of yellow. Having wound on the body as directed for fig. 1., next, with the piece of yellow or brown silk (which, while you wound on the body, should have been left hanging down by the bend of the hook), fasten on each side the hook a narrow strip of bright straw, of about half a straw's breadth wide. Lay it along each side of the body. Holding it in that position, wind on over all the thick yellow or brown silk with which you fastened the straw to the hook, but not too thick; six or seven times, at equal distances, will be sufficient. Attach the peacock's strand for a head—or omit it—and finish.

The hook for this should be made with an eye. The wire should be fine; and, what is of great importance, the *point should stand well off from the shank.*

A real Grasshopper, Cabbage-grub, maggot, or worm, is to be put on the point of the hook.

To vary the above, *omit* the straw; and to vary fig. 1., *add* the straw.

For fig. 3. Plate III., prepare the wire, and in all respects proceed as in the fabrication of fig. 1.; the material for the body, and the lead being straight, making the only differences; save, indeed, that it should be *shorter* than fig. 1. The body is to be formed of white *silk* chenille.

A good variety is with a body of a kind of pale, dirty-yellow, *worsted* chenille.

These two are probably taken for the Wasp-grub.

But a most excellent variety, and with which, perhaps, on the whole, reckoning Trout as well as Grayling, I have had the best sport, is with a body made of a narrow strip of wash-leather, wound on like the chenille; which, when wet, bears no despicable resemblance to the Caddis tribe.

These may, like the Cabbage-grub (fig. 2.),

be made on a single hook, only smaller; a real maggot, Wasp-grub, or Caddis, being put on the point.

Fig. 4. is intended to represent the Green Drake as it issues from its grub state. I make it either on a double-brazed hook, similar to those on which the larger palmers are commonly made, or with a loose triple hook, in the manner of fig. 1. The hook, or wire, as the case may be, is leaded. The body is of pale, dirty-yellow, silk chenille, as fine as can be procured, ribbed with brown silk, or a fibre from the common cock pheasant's tail. The wing is the usual mallard's feather stained a greenish-yellow, and so put on as to lie close to the body; just the contrary of what it is after it has once risen to the surface of the water. Wind on a speckled ginger feather for legs, and he is finished.

Having mentioned the Green Drake, it may perhaps benefit the amateur fly-maker to tell him that the best dye for the May-fly's wing, with which I am acquainted, is the outer and inner bark of the young shoots of the Barberry.

Put about as much of the bark as may be peeled from a slender branch three feet long, into a pint of water. When this boils, put in the feathers for a few minutes, or till they have acquired the hue you desire. When taken out, soak them for two or three minutes in alum water. The colour thus produced is a yellowish-green. The common fault of the artificial May-fly is that it is too *yellow*. The above dye may be made more or less green, according to the quantity of the *outer* bark used ; the *inner* bark yielding the yellow, which should by no means predominate.

While on the subject of the May-fly, I cannot refrain from telling those of my brother anglers who may not be aware of the fact, that during the May-fly season Trout run very freely at the Minnow. From about the 25th of May to the end of June, more fish are to be killed with the Water-witch tribe than with the May-fly. Another hint may, perhaps, not be unacceptable :—The best fortnight in the whole year for minnow-fishing is that immediately following the disappearance of the

May-fly. It is generally considered that the fish are so gorged with their favourite insect, they cannot be tempted with anything the amateur can offer them. But long experience has taught me, that more fish may be killed with the Minnow, in the fortnight after the Green Drake has danced his bright hour on the stage of life, than in any three fortnights in the whole year.

Fig. 9. Plate III. is the representation of a very singular bait. In Wales I have heard it called the Crab and Cad-bait. Perhaps I cannot better recommend it, than by saying it is a favourite among the poachers! This fact may, at any rate, be so far in its favour as to show that it is possessed of very killing properties. I have imitated the natural insect, as shown in fig. 9., and found it admirable. Why the creature should have been called a "Crab," I know not. It much more resembles a small kind of lizard. But it is, in fact, the young Stone-fly, before the wings are sufficiently grown to have become available as wings. It will be seen in April—possibly by the latter

end of March — creeping among the gravel and stones by the river-side, and is very eagerly sought after by the Trout.

To make this bait, lead a single hook, of the size represented in fig. 9. *Flatten* the lead, tapering it to the tail; but still leave it comparatively wide. The whisks in the tail are either two strands of speckled partridge's tail feather, or from the bustard. The body is principally yellow towards the tail, and yellow and brown mixed for the upper part. Rib with yellow silk. The legs, six in number, I have formed of short pieces of thick gut, wound with olive-coloured silk well waxed, and bent into the form shown in fig. 9. The legs are bound on the hook, as the first operation in fabricating the imitation; I mean after the lead is put on. I have also made it with a loose treble hook, in the same manner as that of the Grasshopper, fig. 1. Plate III. If you adopt the single hook, a Caddis must be put on the point of it.

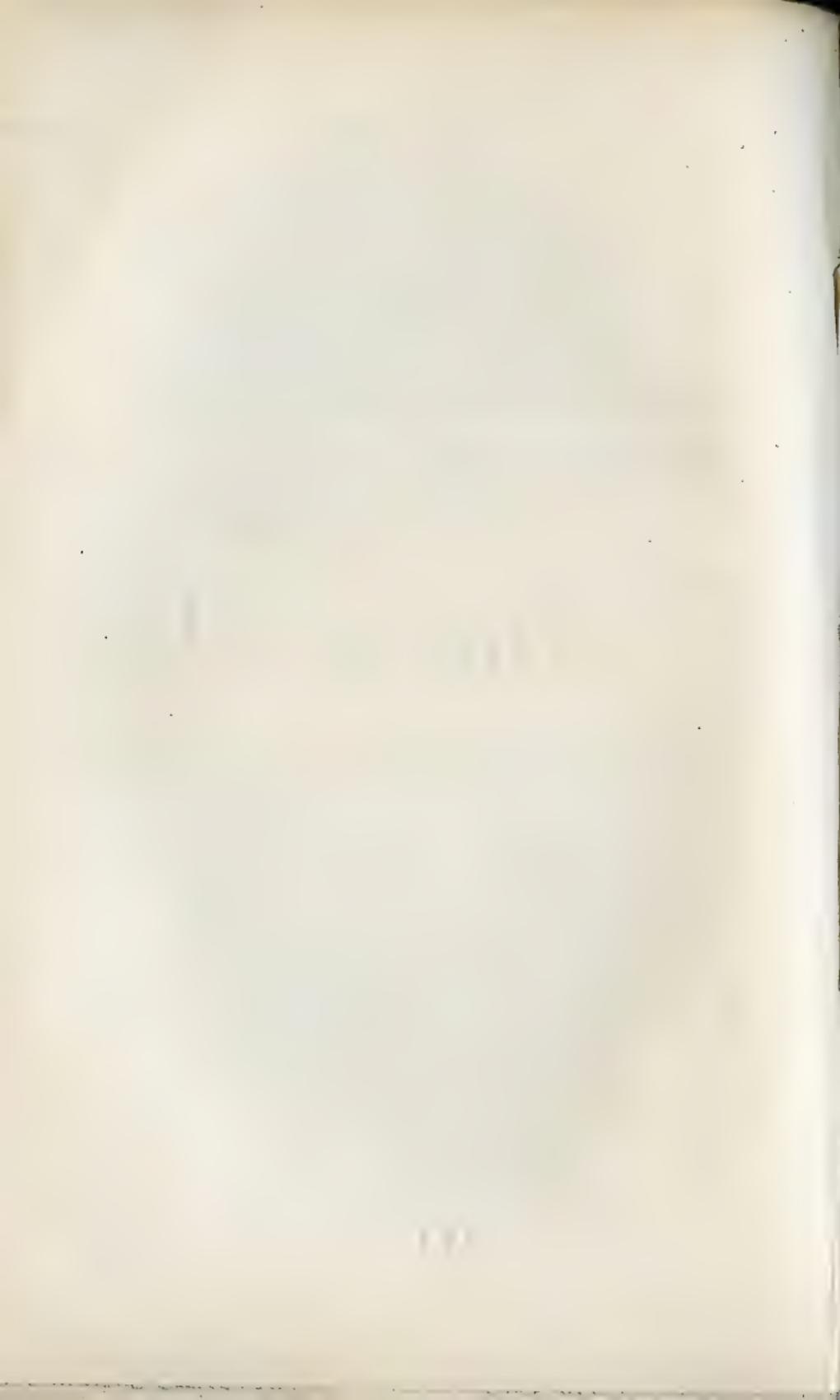
“ Words are like leaves ; and where they most abound,
Much fruit of sense, beneath, is seldom found.”

Lest some critic should quote this at the author's expense, he will say no more about the Grasshopper, *et hoc genus omne*, than that its best season is from July to December. He may, however, add, that in *fly*-fishing for Grayling, the fly must float *down the water*. If drawn *against* the stream, the fisher may be assured of no sport; as, from the peculiar formation of the Grayling's lips, he is unable to take a fly that is *before* him; — it must pass *by* him; and then he rises backwards, and so seizes the insect. But with the Trout, it is very different; he rises at the fly when it *is* before him. If, therefore, you wish to make a better inspection of his spots, and have not Lord Rosse's telescope at hand, I recommend you to throw neither *directly* up nor down the water; but, rather, to draw *slantingly across it*; by which means, a Trout, lying something below your fly, will follow, and take it, before the gut is perceived.

While on the topic of *sinking Baits*, I may observe, that I have often *leaded* the shank of a small hook — No. 8. for instance — and

painted the lead in alternate stripes of dark and light brown. On the point of the hook thus prepared, put either the body of a Harrylonglegs, or of any of the larger flies; — a Cad-bait is perhaps better than any thing else. Thus armed, I have killed many fish, by working it in the same way as already described when speaking of the Grasshopper; but using no float. When the fish are rising, it is a very killing dodge; particularly in streams, in rapids; but, in this case, it must be used within a few inches of the surface.

PART III.



BEETLES.

THE lawyer who drew up the marriage settlement on the projected alliance of John Dory and Ann Chovy, omitting the fair lady's name, performed the exact part of the fly-fisher who goes to the river without any of the Beetle race in his possession. We presume the lady's name to be of principal importance in such an instrument as a marriage settlement. Of precisely similar importance is the Beetle to the angler. What should we think of a gentleman addicted to coursing, whose establishment consisted of setters and pointers? The fisherman's establishment is equally incomplete without Beetles. Yet how seldom have I seen any of the Coleoptera order in the Fly-book! With the exception of the small Beetle, commonly known among fishermen by the name of the Peacock-fly, I have rarely met with one. This is not in the

enjoyment of as fair a degree of favour as it deserves; for it is one of the most killing insects used, and particularly in April, when, in the finest, brightest water, it will be found admirable. The cases which enclose the wings of this species are so very small, scarcely extending over one-third of its body, that it is quite as well to make it in the ordinary manner of dressing a fly; more especially, too, as, when it alights on the water, its wings are most commonly extended, not only beyond the cases, which ought to cover them in a state of repose, but beyond the body itself.

If the fly-fisher will take the trouble to open the stomachs of Trout, almost at any season, he will very often find part of their contents to consist of one or other of the Beetle tribe; a lesson, I imagine, well worth the learning. On one occasion, at Monmouth Cap, on the Monnow, when the Trout were rising in all directions, and I had tried a great variety of flies without effect, I at last captured a very little fellow; and, in order to ascertain what he had been taking, I cut him open, and found,

among other things which I could not distinguish, two small brown-backed Beetles. I immediately put on a Beetle, and produced the only basket of fish killed that day on the river. The same thing occurred once at Fairford, near Cirencester; and I now look upon a Beetle, during the whole season, as commanding success when the fly will fail, supposing the fish to be rising at all; for the mystery of inducing them to sport against their inclination must for ever remain a sealed book.

In the succeeding Plate I have only given two specimens; although there is a great variety which may be sometimes practised with success; colour of the material for the back (intended to represent the cases under which the wings are folded) being the principal difference.

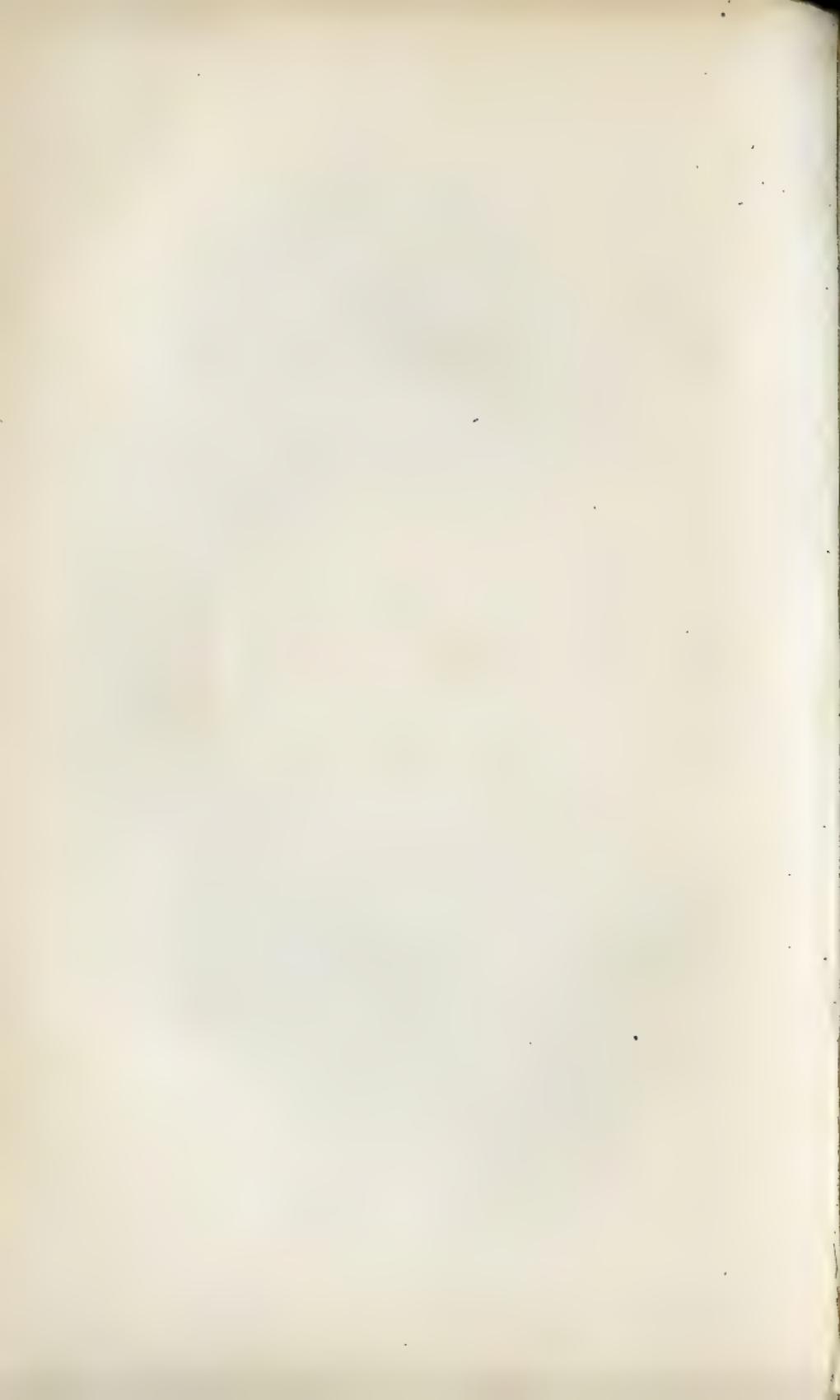
Some of these, for instance, may be made with the bright green strands of the peacock's tail; some with the red feathers of the golden pheasant; others with copper colour, and others with black. This last may have either a peacock- or garnet-coloured body.

Fig. 1. Plate IV., and the black-backed Beetle, as well as the bright green, I have found the best, and with which I have often killed a good basket of fish, when every fly was refused.

The Beetles are used like the artificial fly; but I think they kill best when allowed to float gently down the stream, rather than when drawn against or across it; though I have killed in smooth water, and with a large Beetle too, some very fine fish.

I generally use them made on hooks having a fine eye at the extremity of the shank. In fact, I very commonly make all flies, large and small, on similar hooks; — a practice which will doubtless be much scouted by many anglers. Nor shall I attempt to persuade any one to adopt it, though it possess the advantage of enabling me to use either fine or thick gut with the same fly. It is far more durable, for when the fly is tied on gut, the gut is very soon so worn as to be unsafe, and the fly consequently valueless. Besides, in an ordinary sized round snuff-box, I carry to the river three hundred flies — a compression of the





material with which I am well pleased, more especially as each is kept separate, and available without trouble.

Should the good-natured fishing public ask for a second edition, I may perhaps give more details on this subject; for it is somewhat of a pet, though not exactly the child of our old age;—rather the mistress of our youth, and the friend of our riper years, combining, as Keats most correctly sings,

“ The bread of friendship, and the wine of love;”

exhilaration and sustenance,—the excitement of sport, and its fruits.

The manufacture of the Beetle is a more troublesome operation than that of fly-making.

Tie securely, on the back of a hook, using strong well-waxed silk, a bit of thin whale-bone, cut as shown in Plate IV. fig. 3., when it will assume the appearance of fig. 4. Cut the fibres from a medium sized black hackle, *almost*, but not quite, close to the shaft of the feather; thus leaving it a little rough. Divide it into two equal lengths. Place them on

the under side of the hook, just before the pointed end of the whalebone, and there secure them. These will, when all is concluded, form the legs. Having previously cut the fibres from a small red hackle, which has been died brown, in the same manner you before cut the black hackle, double it, and fasten on the two ends, almost close to the eye of the shank. This is to form the horns ; and you will now have fig. 5. Work back the silk to the tail end, and there fasten near the bend of the hook—upon the hook itself, not upon the whalebone—a strip of feather half an inch wide, from a hen's wing which is of a ruddy brown, or a similar coloured feather from the peacock's wing. Tie it on by the points, having the *inside* of the feather *uppermost* (fig. 6.). Take three or four strands of black ostrich, and fasten them directly upon the spot where the feather was secured (fig. 7.). Continue the silk, with which you are working over the whalebone, till you reach the legs, and leave it hanging there down. Wind the strands of ostrich over the whalebone, and fasten them where the silk was

left hanging down. Cut off the superfluous ends, and you have fig. 8. Bring the feather over the back of the whalebone, with such care as *not to separate the fibres*; and pass the silk twice over it, at the place where the ostrich strands were fastened, that is, immediately *behind* the legs. Now convey the silk under the legs, bringing it out between them and the head, where the feather must be secured. Cut away the thick ends of the feather, and fasten off the silk (*vide* fig. 9.). Clip the legs and horns of proper length, the legs very short; put them into something like their natural shape; and you will have accomplished fig. 1., which will then be ready for use: Hook No. 11. or 12.

Fig. 2. Plate IV. is only an enlarged edition of the foregoing; the body being made of peacock's strands instead of ostrich's. This being a large Beetle, it is perhaps preferable to make the legs of short pieces of gut wrapped over with dark-coloured silk well waxed; thickening those parts which are to do duty for the thighs. — Hook No. 6.

The Beetle has six legs ; and, in these large kinds, you may furnish them with their natural number, if so it please you ; the two longest, which are the hind legs, being placed, perhaps, half a straw's breadth further back than the others. For my own part, I never use more than four either for large or small Beetles. Indeed, the legs of the smaller kinds have been so curtailed by Nature—are so very minute—that I commonly make them without any, and find them quite as effective.

There is one Beetle besides the Peacock-fly, mentioned in page 51., and, to the best of my belief, only one, in common use with anglers. This we call the Marlow Buzz. Instead of putting together peacock, gold, and a furnace hackle, why not imitate Nature, and produce fig. 1. Plate IV.?

The Marlow Buzz sometimes kills well ; fig. 1. kills better.

At times, though not very often, we may succeed with almost any thing. But should you chance to be a rather fastidious amateur, not caring to kill fish right and left

when everybody else can do the same,—should you be, in fact, one of those delighting in skill, eschewing all whipcord work, go to the river when it is sparkling as the diamond, bright as beauty's sunny tresses, shallow as a coxcomb's pate, and—bring home a dish of fish. To do this artistically, avoiding all kinds of the abominations of *real* bait fishing, try the finest gut procurable, with fly or beetle, according to its season; size of the insect not being, generally speaking, of the great importance usually attached to it,—at least in Trout-fishing; for, in the brightest water, I have killed many a good brace of fish with a *large* fly,—a practice contrary to old rules. If no rise, adopt the smallest of the Minnows. And if no run, call in the aid of Grasshopper, Caddis, Cabbage-grub, Wasp-grub, or some of their varieties. In default of success with any of these, hitch on a wide-awake hat as the stretcher; you will find it equally seductive; for if you cannot kill with fine fly tackle, delicate Minnow, or insinuating Grub, rest assured that a giant dining with Queen Mab would receive as little bodily satisfaction

as you will mental, by remaining at the water-side,—always, be it understood, as far as gentlemanly fishing is concerned.

Observation will, however, sometimes reward you with a good fish or two; and here are a brace of examples:—

A fine Trout was lying close to the stone-work of a weir, at Leintwardine, on the Teme, but he was neither to be coaxed with fly, minnow, nor grub,—at least not in the usual way of using them. I was, one day, watching him devouring minnows; when, presently, one of the minnows — which were continually leaping to get out of the way of their formidable enemy — dropped upon one of the projecting stones of the weir, and thence wriggled itself into the water, when it was instantly seized by the Trout. I immediately thought that his honor's last hour was at hand. And so it was; for I put on the Fly-minnow, and succeeded in pitching it on to one of the stones. Waiting till he was near the spot, I then gently jerked the bait off the stone; and it had barely touched the water, when he had it, — and *I had him.*

The other example of the effect of observation, was on this wise.—In a small stream in Picardy, there was, one summer, a fine fellow, which proved to be full four pounds' weight. He had defied all the fishermen of the neighbourhood — myself among the number. He was in the almost daily habit of sailing to and fro, close to the bank; his promenade extending perhaps a dozen yards. He had been hooked two or three times; and was consequently as wary as the miser, when his son begins to beat about the bush, introductory to some pecuniary hint. On one occasion, I noticed a small insect drop from the grass (which was long, at the time) on to the water, just as he was passing. It was seized without hesitation; and I forthwith prepared for the slaughter. To the top joint of my rod I attached about a foot of rather stout gut, with a small brown fly (the Frog-hopper) at the end. After he had passed out of sight, I placed this fly almost on the point of a blade of grass, which slightly projected over the water. With the top joint of my rod in the right hand, and the gaff in my

left, I bent down, and awaited his coming. As he approached, I gently shook the fly—it dropped off the blade of grass—and the fish was mine.

So much for observation.

PART IV.



FANCY FLIES.

"Around, a thousand winged wonders fly."—POPE.

ALTHOUGH the fisherman has dealings with "winged wonders" in superabundance, yet I cannot think of inflicting on the reader quite the Poet's "thousand."

With the terrestrial Fly-catcher, of which, by the way, we have only two kinds in England, I have nothing to do; with the aquatic, something. The terrestrial might not, possibly, be deceived by what is considered a fanciful combination of fur, feather, worsted, silk, gold, and silver; the aquatic are.

Many of the so-called fancy flies have their prototypes in nature. The term fancy-fly is often vulgarly applied to all flies whose living original is unknown to the angler. But though the angler, to be perfect master of the "gentle

craft," should be a close observer of nature in her insect creation, he is frequently no more of a naturalist than to see the distinction between a Trout and a Grayling. The multitude of Gnats and Midges fluttering over a stream escapes his notice, nay, often eludes the more practised eye of him who may be called the naturalist-angler, in contradistinction to the fisher, whose faith is founded on the interested dictum of the fly-seller, and the dogmatism of those who acknowledge only a few well-known insects. In this brief preface to Part IV., I wish principally to disabuse the reader's mind of any erroneous notions he may have formed of the fancy flies. In Plate V., Nos. 6. and 11., for instance, with the Gnats, No. 9., are imitations of the natural insect, and which abound in most streams. No. 9. I have sometimes seen used by others, the rest never; though towards evening No. 11. is, from the end of April through the summer, excellent.

There is one colour which enters far too sparingly into the composition of our flies; and

that is dark claret or tortoise-shell. It is curious to remark that the few flies found on the water in winter are dark. It is a well-ascertained fact, that dark colours attract warmth in a greater degree than light colours. This is capable of very easy proof by the simple test of placing a piece of dark cloth and another piece of white material on the snow when the sun shines. The snow will be melted to a greater depth under the dark than under the light cloth. Thus can the dark flies live by attracting more heat in an atmosphere which would destroy by cold the paler kinds. These winter flies, and many of the spring, summer, and autumn insects, are called *black*, and so made ; whereas many of them are *dark claret colour*. No. 11. in Plate V. would probably be made black by most people. Apply a magnifying glass, or even hold it up between the eye and the light, and you will find it is nothing like black.

It may sound ludicrous to the uninterested and unobserving when I say that I always

carry a magnifying glass to the river. But it is not only useful to discover the true colour of the living insect, but to detect on opening a fish upon what fly he has been regaling ; for unless the fish happen to have only just swallowed it, you will otherwise find great difficulty in making it out correctly : the digestion of fish is such a rapid process, that the kind of insect becomes undistinguishable in a very short time after entombment in a Trout's gullet.

I esteem the colour of the fly's body of far greater importance than that of the wings ; at least I have found it so, probably because the body is first presented to the fish's observation, as being nearest to him ; and of those which may be called *flat-winged* (in contradistinction to others which have their wings *upright* when in a state of repose) he can scarcely perceive any wing at all, as it is close upon the *back* of the fly.

What may appear the right colour when looking down upon it, may be found quite wrong when viewing it between the eye and

the light,—the way in which fish must, from their position *beneath* the object, always see it.

It may be thought a startling assertion, that a favourite fly one season may not be found equally alluring another. Such have I, nevertheless, experienced in practice. The problem is not of very difficult solution. Some years are more favourable to the production of the fly than others. Fertility of soil depends not wholly on the industry and ingenuity of man. Excess or paucity of rain will neutralise both care and skill. Correspondent changes—unusual floods, extreme frosts—may destroy a greater number of the larvæ than would perish in a more temperate season. When, therefore, the favourite of one year is not plentiful another, the fish seek it not, but prey on what may have previously escaped notice. Hence, many of what are considered fancy flies, because not in standard lists, succeed when the known insect is uncared for. And herein, too, they prove themselves of the optimist school; taking all for the best,

like wise fish as they are, they get fat on a midge when nobler food is denied them.

Mr. Ronalds's imitations of the principal natural flies are so good, that I shall only say, on the subject of fly-fishing for Trout and Grayling,—when imitation of the better known insects does not produce the anticipated result, try, according to the season, some of the fancy flies in Plate V., of which I shall now proceed to give the descriptions.

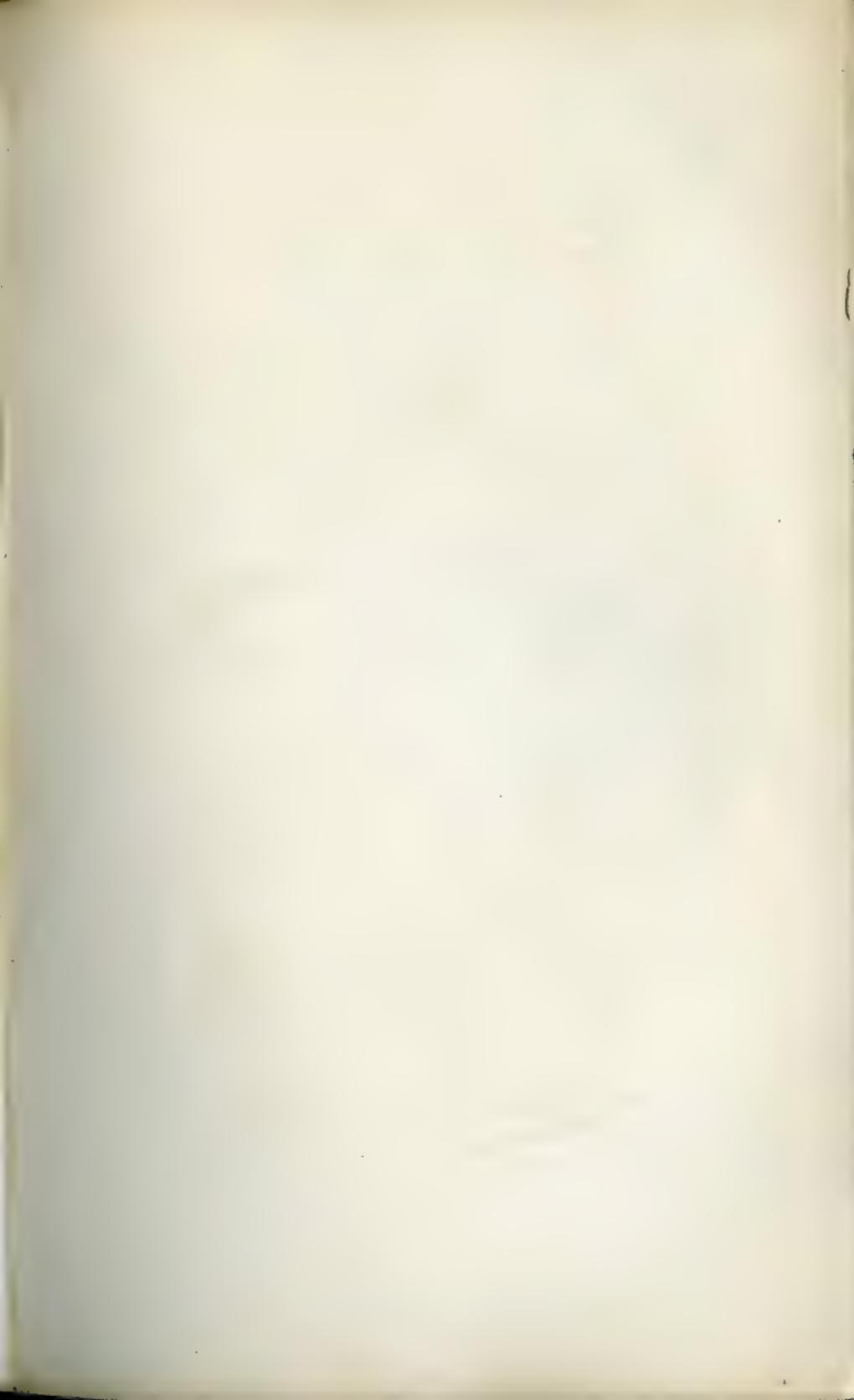


PLATE. 5



PLATE V.

Fig. 1.

BODY. Dark silk, ribbed with flat gold or silver.

WINGS. { Darkish Starling.

HACKLE. Furnace hackle (dark, black-red) over all; but wound on thicker toward the head. No. 10. or 11. hook.

PLATE V.

Fig. 2.

BODY. Greenish Peacock. Gold tag.

HACKLE. Plain red; wound on thickly,
for about a straw's breadth,
at the head. No. 13. hook.

PLATE V.

Fig. 3.

BODY. Greenest Peacock. Orange floss-silk tag.

HACKLE. Wren's tail.

HEAD. Greenest Peacock; same as the body. No. 11. or 12. hook.

PLATE V.

Fig. 4.

BODY. Three pale slate-coloured fibres
of a Heron's feather. Rib
thickly with fine silver.

HACKLE. That which has a black list
along the shaft of the feather
and black tips, the centre of
the fibres being white. No.10.
hook.

PLATE V.

Fig. 5.

BODY. Red-brown wool. Gold tag,
well shown.

WING. Speckled Guinea-fowl.

HACKLE. Plain red, over all the body.
No. 10. hook.

PLATE V.

Fig. 6.

BODY. Dark claret.

HACKLE. Small Sea-swallow's feather,
very pale. No. 13. hook.

PLATE V.

Fig. 7.

BODY. Orange floss silk.

HACKLE. Small, speckled - brown Partridge; wrapped only three times round, at most. No. 13. hook.

PLATE V.

Fig. 8.

BODY. Yellow floss silk.

HACKLE. Same as last. No. 13. hook.

PLATE V.

Fig. 9.

BODY. Mole's or Water-rat's fur. Rib
with fine orange thickly.

HACKLE. For some, dark blue dun; for
others, light blue dun; and
for others, brown-speckled
Partridge. No. 13. hook.

PLATE V.

Fig. 10.

BODY. Peacock's herl.

HACKLE. Plain red.

TAIL. The tips of two feathers from
the head of the crimson Crow.
Not more than the sixth of an
inch, at most, need be shown.
No. 12. hook.

PLATE V.

Fig. 11.

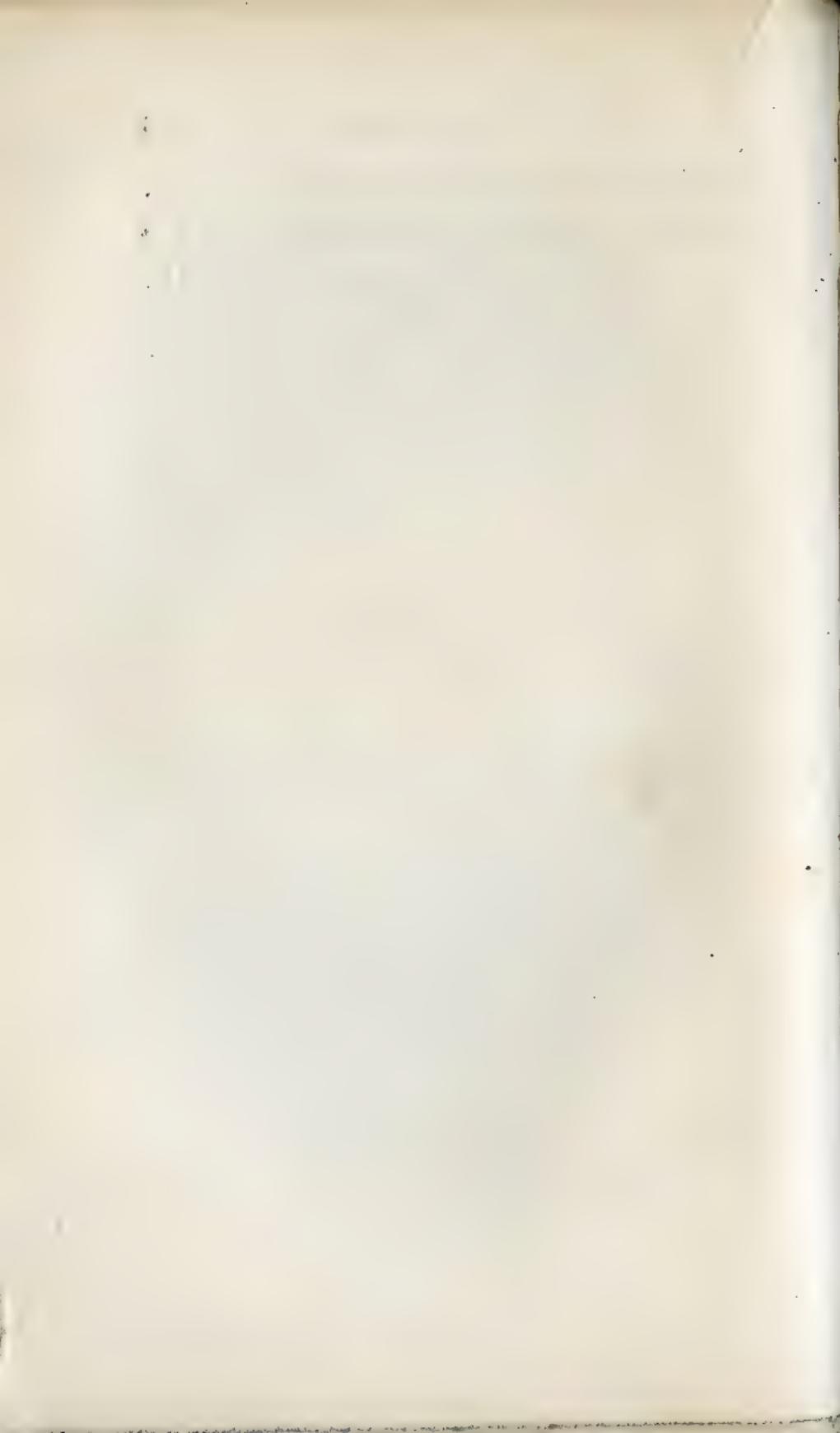
BODY. Dark claret.

HACKLE. Dark claret.

WING. Rather dark hen Blackbird, or
Water Ousel.

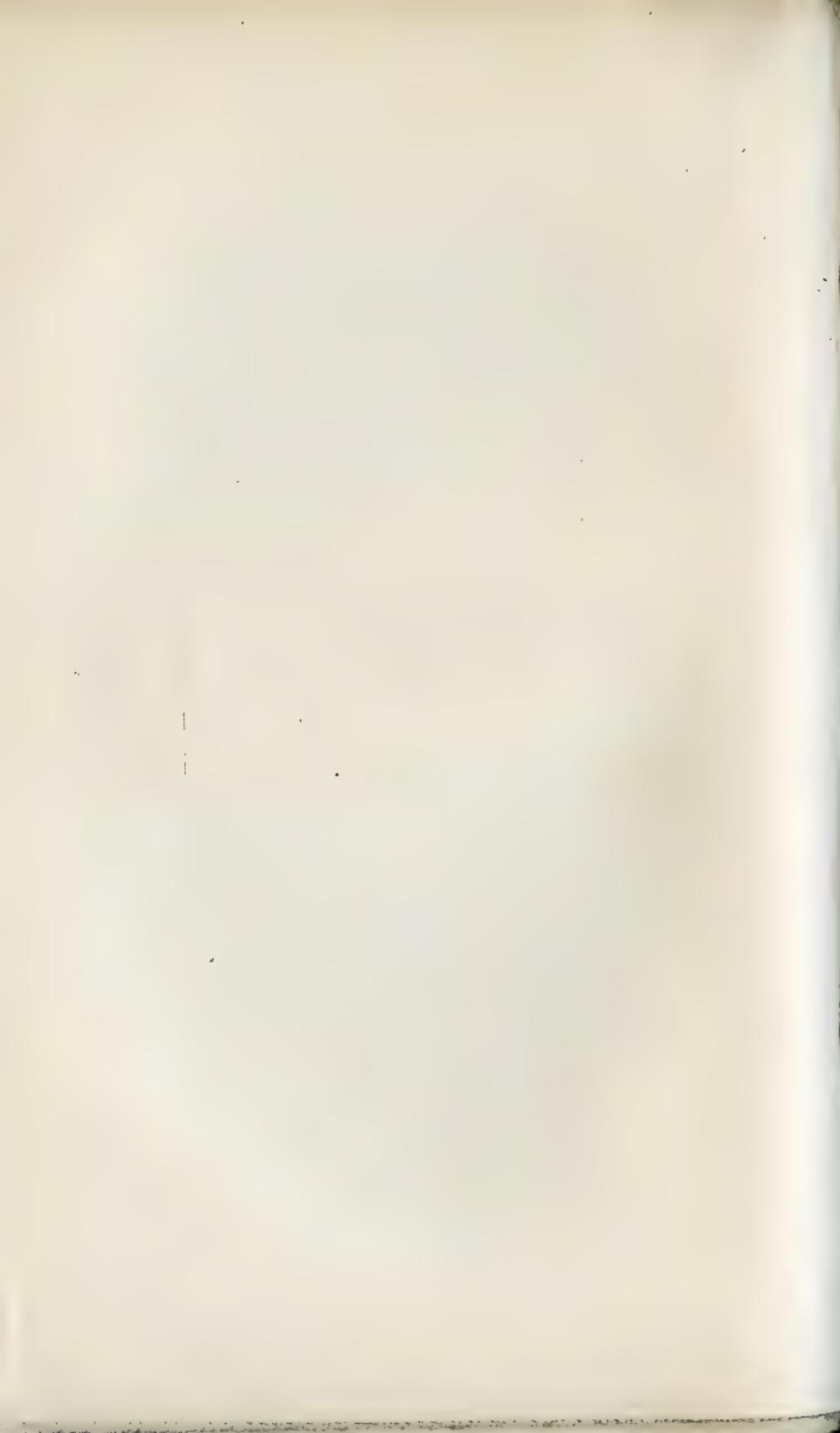
Of the foregoing I have found Nos. 1. and 9. kill through the whole season. No. 9. I consider one of the most useful of flies. I have sometimes, even in the brightest water, succeeded with Nos. 7. and 8., when other flies have failed. These two have only been given to illustrate the *style* of fly I wish to designate. Others, with the same scanty, ragged-looking hackle, but varying the body, are equally good. No. 10. is principally used for taking the Lastspring, or Salmon-fry ; a disgraceful practice, though, I am sorry to say, very commonly followed in the Wye and other rivers. In the Wye, thousands are taken in a week, and sold openly in Hereford. The fly with a green body (a variation on Nos. 7. and 8.) must be made with the body short and thick, and the hackle not twisted more than *twice* round. With this I have repeatedly had great sport ; and the first time I observed it was in the throat of a Trout. There is a very small green insect of the Grasshopper kind, with minute speckled legs, sufficiently abundant in

the hot weather; and for this it is taken. I can very strongly recommend it. No. 3. is better for Grayling than Trout; and No. 11., as an evening fly, is inferior to none.



PART IV.

(*continued.*)



MOTHS.

THE Moth is the owl of the insect race. He creeps out later in the day than his brethren. A most remarkable circumstance has been observed among some of the Phalaenæ family, that, while the male is a winged insect, the female is a creeping thing without wings. With these wingless lady Moths we have no dealings; nor do we wish to have any with those that sometimes infest our wardrobes.

I cannot help feeling a very decided antipathy to the owl, the cat, and the Moth;—to the owl, because, his singular downy feathers enabling him to fly so noiselessly, he the more easily surprises his prey;—to the cat, because, from an equally noiseless movement with the owl, an idea is engendered that her talons, though they may be hid within their sheath, are always quivering to pounce upon *something*, whether in jest or earnest it matters little;—

and to the Moth, because it sneaks out at dusk, as if ashamed of itself. All these—owl, cat, and Moth, establish a notion of treachery. The very fishing with this Moth has an air of treachery about it. Nevertheless, just about dusk in the evening, and as long afterwards as you like to fish, fine Trout may be taken with fig. 3. Plate VI. The wings of this kind of Moth being so wide and stiff, it will float for a long time; and at those periods when the larger fish are feeding it is very destructive.

Indeed, the smaller kinds of Moths in Plate VI., from their comparative width and stiffness of wing, have a tendency to float. Add a tremulous motion of the wrist, and you will communicate that fluttering movement on the surface of the water, which is peculiarly attractive.

For myself I love not the sport. Though from dusk till an hour after daybreak the larger Moths are very killing, yet I love not the sport. What is the amusement, artistically speaking as a fisherman, in dabbling in the *chiaroscuro* of even a brilliant summer's

night? A midsummer's night is lovely, very lovely; but to enjoy its beauties,—to *feel* its delights, we must not have a Moth on a hook; the Moth and the hook are too *terrestrial*.

Away! ye Elves of Darkness!—Give me daylight and honest angling!—A clear conscience—clear hours—clear water! and then,

“Row, brothers, row!”

or, which I should very much prefer to the burden of the Canadian Boat-song—

Fish, brothers, fish!

In the dark, the amusement of killing a good fish is—nul; for, with a large hook and thick gut, he can be lugged out without ceremony. You *see* nothing of him till he is landed! It is just like smoking; the whole pleasure lies in *seeing* the smoke. Now let me appeal, in all seriousness, to the determined smoker. Have you the same pleasure in smoking in the *dark* as in the *light*? To be convinced—try it. Do you not puff away

more vigorously in the dark, in order either to burn your throat, or to catch a furtive glance at the glowing end of your cigar? Both the burning your throat, and the ascertaining that your cigar is in process of being consumed, are merely done to make sure that the smoke is gracefully curling around you.

Well, that has not much to do with fishing in the dark. Dear reader, it is but a comparison, though not quite so long as some of Homer's. Fishing in the dark! Away with such clumsy work! as the pencil said to the painter, when he was sketching an elephant's leg.

If, according to Hudibras,

— “the pleasure be as great
Of being cheated as to cheat,”

the night angler can have but little pleasure, for the skill of *cheating* with fine tackle and a well-wrought bait is at an end; and he surely cannot be cheated into the notion that he is a *sportsman*.

There must be as much amusement in this kind of angling, as I conceive a friend of mine could experience in his mode of treating a jack. As soon as he had hooked one, no matter what its weight, he hoisted the rod on his shoulder, turned his back to the water, and walked steadily into the field, until he heard the fish flapping on dry land ! He then quietly turned round, unhooked his prize, rebaited, and again threw in, with Turk-like gravity, for another fish.

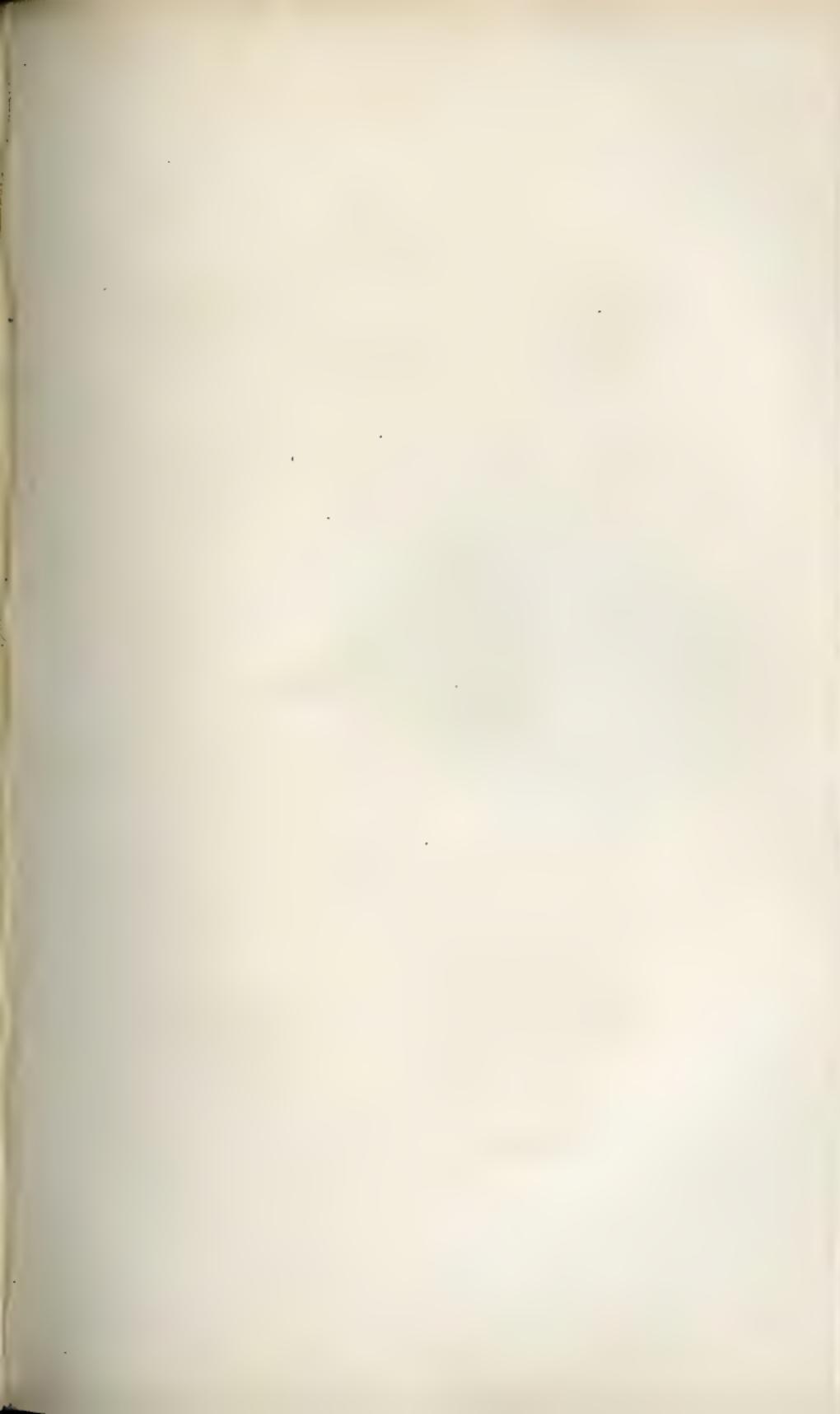
Why not stand blindfolded on the top of a church steeple, and drop peas on the heads of the passengers ? Such is all the fun I can see in night-fishing.

And now, to all ye who love to turn night into day, whether in the ball-room, the *Salons de Jeu*, or by the river side, (though in none of these cases might you be pleased to find night suddenly converted into day), I humbly make my bow. With the night-loving bipeds of *society* I have nothing to do, having nought in common with *them*; to the night-loving *angler* I can only say, —

On the hours of the Poacher,
Be not thou an encroacher,
While the Bat and the Owl flit by :
Leave the Trout and the Grayling,
To their feeding and sailing,
Nor tempt, with Moth, Minnow, nor Fly.

In my contempt for night-fishing, I had nearly forgotten to observe that the various coloured chenilles make excellent bodies for the Moth varieties: for the larger ones worsted chenille; and for the smaller, silk.

I shall now describe the Moths.



1



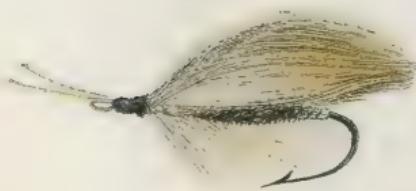
2



3



4



5



PLATE VI.

Fig. 1.

BODY. Rather pale red-brown wool.

WINGS. The tips of two of the small feathers, from the *outside* of a cock Pheasant's wing. The under wings are the tips of two feathers from the *inside* of the same wing.

HACKLE. Pale red under the wings. No. 9. or 10. hook.

PLATE VI.

Fig. 2.

BODY. Black wool. Rib, with flat silver.

WINGS. Two speckled feathers of the Guinea-fowl, trimmed as shown in fig. 2., Plate VI. The under wings are the tips of two feathers from under the wing of the Lark.

HACKLE. Dark blue dun. No. 9. or 10. hook.

PLATE VI.

Fig. 3.

BODY. Orange and brown mohair in equal portions.

WINGS. The tips of two of the shorter feathers in a hen Pheasant's tail, the *extreme tips* being rounded off. The under wings are from the ruff of the Golden Pheasant.

HACKLE. Speckled ginger. No. 5. or 6. hook.

PLATE VI.

Fig. 4.

BODY. Isabella coloured mohair; a sort of muddy yellowish white.

WINGS. From the grey Owl, which is tinged with very pale orange; or any white which is not too glaring.

HACKLE. Black and white speckled. No. 6. hook.

PLATE VI.

Fig. 5.

BODY. The sandy fur from the back of
a young Hare's neck.

WINGS. The tips of two feathers from a
Hen which is a ruddy brown.

HACKLE. Ginger. No. 9. or 10. hook.

Though, as I before said, I love not night-fishing, I have sometimes dibbed successfully with the smaller of the Moths delineated in Plate VI., at any part of the day, especially where bushes prevailed. For this purpose it is a good bait, the hook being large, and so much feather about it well disguising it. A tolerably large hook is an advantage in this mode of angling, for you will be commonly obliged to hoist out the fish in a very unceremonious fashion; and having it well covered with feathers is an advantage too, for under bushes the trout comes up so leisurely at the fly, that he has more time for observation than when lying in the stream. In swift running water he rises with great rapidity, seemingly conscious that, unless he do so, the insect will have escaped: while in stiller water, where the fly cannot be so soon carried beyond his ken, his movements are slow and quiet; wherefore, in such cases, the better the hook is disguised, the greater your chance of succeeding.

PART V.



SALMON-FISHING.

A HEAVY rod, a cable line, treble gut, and a huge fly! This would be *fine* angling for the giant, whose hook

“ was baited with a Dragon’s tail,
Who sat upon a rock, and bobbed for whale.”

But to us it sounds like *coarse work*,—and so it is; yet the Salmon is a noble fellow, and when hooked affords noble sport; and, what is more, the tackle, which is comparatively fine, will raise, and with skill likewise land, more fish than rougher materials. With the strongest tackle we do not haul out at once even an eight or ten pound Salmon. Our material cannot break, it is true; but how are we to ensure the hold which the hook may have taken in the fish’s mouth? Cleopatra’s diver, who stuck the salted fish on Antony’s innocent hook, might feel quite secure; but we, who are satisfied to skim the surface, to rank among the *superficials*,

to sport “o'er the glad waters” like any other ephemeral, must take our chance. Sharp practice might tear out the hook easily enough; where, then, is the advantage of such coarse stuff? Fish are killed with it, I know; and fish are frightened with it too.

I have found it a very useful general rule, to adopt the finest possible tackle, consistent with the size or kind of fish for which you angle, and the place where you are angling. In spots much embarrassed by bushes and roots, you must take your chance of hooking a fish with strong tackle; and so hold on, like grim Death. But in free places, you can hardly fish too fine; I mean as respects the line and the gut,—not the fly; for a rough fly will frequently kill fish, especially Trout, better than a very delicate-bodied one.

The only reason I ever heard given in favour of twisted gut for Salmon-fishing, that had, even at first sight, the least possible pretensions to practical utility, was this:—In a rocky river the single gut would be sooner frayed, and consequently broken, by being

scraped along the sharp edges of the stones. But I do not consider even this tenable. Supposing the gut to come often in contact with these stones, which it does not, the very roughness of twisted gut makes it more liable to fray : how rarely does the gut ever come into such contact !

Single, moderately thick, and perfect gut will not only *raise more fish*, but *out-wear* the twisted. Most of the fishing-tackle sellers will tell you the contrary ; for the simple reasons, that thick and at the same time very perfect gut is difficult to procure, and that they can work up almost any rubbish into twisted casting lines. If you hooked a few yards of posts and rails, or half a fathom of park-paling, I should wish you to have twisted gut, merely to save the single from such a degrading process. Anything will serve the purpose of dragging out a fish ; but for *sport*, commend me to unsophisticated gut, proportioned in thickness to the state of the water, and to the size of the fish you are striving to seduce. What is generally known as thick Trout gut will kill Salmon of

almost any size if it has been carefully selected and tied.

To give a regular list of Salmon flies would be of trifling or no use to the angler; they would only form mere fanciful arrangements of colours, perplexing combinations, difference without distinction. I have, therefore, only given two as types of the gaudy flies (figs. 1. and 2. Plate VII.), and a few specimens of the more unpretending kinds, including some of the *Butterfly* tribe.

The Trout fisher finds certain flies common to every river, and a very few only confined to certain localities. Most of the flies, therefore, wherein Trout and Grayling delight, being bred in all rivers, are in all rivers good baits, merely because they are there to be found.

But in Salmon fly-fishing, where are the monsters in nature wherewith we tempt the fish? The Dragon Fly is certainly a gaudy gentleman, but not numerous, and rarely indeed seen *upon* the water.

Our Salmon flies are, with one or two exceptions, nothing but children of fancy, arbitrary

arrangements of feathers, silks, worsteds, furs, mohairs, and numerous incongruous et cetera.

“ The things, we know, are neither rich nor rare,
But wonder how the devil they got there ! ”

Whence comes it, then, that the favourite fly of one river is scouted at another ? *Experientia docet !* cries the learned Pundit, with distended cheek and corrugated brow ; a gaudy fly kills best here, and a sober one there. I doubt this much ; and though my experience in Salmon-fishing is not so extensive as that of many others, yet have I killed fish in different rivers with flies not bearing the most remote resemblance to the standard fly of the water ; not only killed fish, but as many as any one. This is not intended as a *boast*, but merely to show that prejudice in angling is just like prejudice in anything else, — another phrase for want of reflection, or idleness of research.

I have seen a practice in some places, particularly on one of our most beautiful rivers, the Wye, of using a Blue Dun early in the season, and orange and yellow with Bittern’s wing and

hackle later. This seems to have resulted from Trout-fishing, as the Blue Dun or Cockwing is an early and most admirable fly for Trout or Grayling; and though varieties of it are found all the season, and are among the best, yet, as the season advances, yellow and orange make their appearance, and are received with much cordiality by their scaly devourers.

But in Salmon-fishing, the flies, *soi-disant*, made and used are not more arbitrary than assigning one colour to the spring, and others to the summer and autumn.

In some rivers—such as several of the Irish, for instance, where the water is always *turbery*, always discoloured—a gaudy fly is no doubt preferable, as being more easily detected by the fish. But, even in such waters, to vary the colour according to the season is ridiculous; for, with very rare exceptions, it is tolerably certain that Salmon do not rise at the natural fly. I speak not of old fish,—the fellows that have spawned, and appear in their dotage,—for *they* will take any thing; but what sportsman will take them? The good, honest

Salmon—the new fish, fresh and lusty from his salt-water bath—is often rising, it is true; but, with all the attention I could give, I never discovered at what he rose;—a simple case of amusement, in most instances, I strongly suspect.

Fish will often strike at anything, apparently in mere wantonness, that is floating or moving along the surface of the water. And when a Salmon is thus sporting, it is not unlikely that, on presenting a fly, he will, unless alarmed, rise at it; and perhaps the more eagerly, if it be an unaccustomed object. Even Trout will sometimes do this; no matter what the colour, form, or size. On one occasion I actually *saw* a trout taken with a *daisy*, after having rejected several flies which had been presented to his notice. It may be so with Salmon. But even now, in the middle of the nineteenth century, we have far too limited a knowledge of their habits of feeding—marine, as well as river—for me to assert this as a fact.

That nothing is ever found in the stomach of a Salmon, save a small quantity of yellowish

liquid, seems to place an insuperable barrier in the discoverer's path. It is just possible, that a chemical analysis of this liquid might furnish some hint for our guidance—give some clue to a knowledge of their epicurean fancies.

One of the received rules for Salmon fly-fishing may, perhaps, hold good; — namely, that a small and sad-coloured fly is to be preferred in a bright and shallow water; a large and gaudy one in discoloured, or very deep rapid water, or in a blustering day. The Salmon, like the Grayling, lies at the bottom, even when prepared to rise; in stormy weather, therefore, or in discoloured water, he cannot see a small, dull, unobtrusive fly. In such cases, large and gaudy is your only chance.

With the exception of the large Moth and Butterfly tribes, I consider the great perfection of a Salmon fly to consist in its life-like motion. I mean, that in moving it through the stream, by short jerks, the wings shall very visibly collapse, and suddenly resume the position they present to the eye when out of water, and dry. This double motion of the wings looks more like life than any mere movement of the whole

bait; and is to be communicated to the fly by drawing it quickly toward you for a few inches, stopping suddenly, and again drawing. This will not only give motion to the whole mass, but a seemingly *separate* motion to the wings; —exhibiting, therefore, a more lively appearance of the whole than can be given by any other means. Fig. 3. Plate VIII. is incomparably the best fly with which I am acquainted for producing this effect; the play of the Peacock's strands is perfection.

With this fly, Captain Russell has performed this spring two very remarkable feats. He has killed with it, and it alone, nine fish, and raised many more. Nor has he taken a single Salmon with any other fly, although he has tried a variety. It is thus proved to be an admirable bait, and well deserving the name of "the Captain," which it has, in consequence of the above, been christened. The other singular circumstance is this:—One of the Salmon he took had, when captured, an artificial March Brown, with a maggot on the hook, sticking in his jaw; and to which was attached nearly three yards of gut, and another small

fly! The maggot being still on the hook, proves that it could not have been taken long before the Salmon caught a Tartar in "the Captain." Now, had it been an *old* fish, the fact might not have seemed so singular; but he was a fine, *new* fish, in famous condition.

As far as my knowledge extends, this is unprecedented in the history of Salmon Fly-fishing.

We have a mode of sending out the fly in quest of Salmon, known, I believe, by the name of the Welsh Throw. The fly is brought as near you as the length of line will admit, by drawing the rod, almost perpendicularly or inclining a trifle, behind you, either on the right hand or the left—immediately delivering the line before you, while the fly and several yards of line remain on the water. The line in this case sweeps along the water; and the fly reaches the surface *last*.

To accomplish this throw, the rod must be well proportioned to the line. If the rod be powerful, so must be the line. If the rod be lighter, the line must be proportionably so; else to succeed is impossible. And without a

line made for the express purpose, no man can accomplish the throw. The line must increase in thickness from the point for about twenty-five yards; nearly the last half of these twenty-five yards being very heavy. The object of this is, that the *weight* of the upper part shall be such, as to force forward the lighter end, with the gut and fly. The greatest weight of line being at the point of the rod, sends out the lighter part, with much less exertion to the angler than is required for the usual over-handed throw. And it possesses another material advantage: that you can fish those catches or casts from the bank, which you could not command unless in a boat; for as the line is never brought *behind you*, no rock, tree, or bank impedes the throw. The fly, too, can be pitched very much farther by this than by any other means. The economy of manual exertion, the being enabled to fish in any cramp place, and the sending out a greater length of line—surely form a triad well worthy the Salmon-fisher's notice.

And now for the flies.

PLATE VII.

Fig. 1.

BODY. Flat gold *under* the tail. Next a few turns of red floss silk; the same quantity of green in the middle; and the same of orange toward the head. Rib with fine flat gold.

WINGS. Of Argus Pheasant's bright spotted tail feather: of Bittern, of Red Macaw, of Golden Pheasant's ruff, and of the Summer Duck, a few fibres each mixed together.

HACKLE. Black over all, with Grouse's feather under the wing; and Jay's over the but of the wing.

TAIL. Two middle sized feathers from crest of the Golden Pheasant.



2





HORNS. Two long fibres of the Macaw's feather, which is red on one side, and either blue or yellow on the other.

HEAD. Greenish Peacock.

PLATE VII.

Fig. 2.

BODY. Gold tag under the tail. Bright green Hog's down for the tail half, and the brightest yellow for the other half. Made rough.

WINGS. Two strips, about a dozen fibres in each, of the rich brown of the Mallard which hangs over his wings. Over these fix two feathers of the Golden Pheasant's crest, two inches in length, so as they bend over toward the hook.

HACKLE. Plain red, with the mottled buff feather of the Argus Pheasant under the wings.

TAIL. The breast feather of the crimson Crow; on each side of which a feather from the breast of the Toucan.

HEAD. Peacock.





PLATE VIII.

Fig. 1.

BODY. Dark purple ; with a wide silver tag.

WINGS. Dark mottled brown Turkey ; or dark rich brown speckled feather of the Mallard.

HACKLE. Black over all ; with a Grouse feather under the wing.

HEAD. Black Ostrich.

PLATE VIII.

Fig. 2.

BODY. Yellow floss silk. Broad gold tag.

WINGS. Bittern's wing feather, two strips.

HACKLE. Bittern.

TAIL. Short, of one red and one yellow feather laid side by side; or a single feather from the Parrot, which combines the same two colours.

PLATE VIII.

Fig. 3.

BODY. Bright red worsted. Rib with a strand of Black Ostrich, and rather fine gold alternately.

WINGS. From a dozen to twenty strands of the Peacock's tail feather. A few of the bright green strands from the sword feather of the Peacock may be laid over them.

HACKLE. Brightest Golden Pheasant's tippet feather under the wings.

TAIL. Red and yellow; same as No. 2.

Plate VIII.

PLATE IX.

Fig. 1.

BODY. White or grey worsted chenille.

WINGS. Two sets. The upper are the tips of two white feathers, so set on as to stand almost upright. The under are also the tips of two white feathers, but finer and smaller than the others ; lying, too, somewhat flatter, to show under the first pair of wings.

HACKLE. Yellowish white.

HEAD. Black.

1



2



3





PLATE IX.

Fig. 2.

BODY. The blue roots of the Rabbit's fur.

HACKLE. Blue Dun over the whole body, thickened toward the head with a blue feather from the Heron.

TAIL. The point of a small Heron's feather; so put on as to bend over the hook.

HORNS. Two shafts of a blue hackle, with the fibres cut almost, but not quite, close off.

PLATE IX.

Fig. 3.

BODY. Green floss silk. Rib rather fine flat gold.

WINGS. Two feathers from the ruff of the King Bird of Paradise. To stand upright.

HACKLE. From the cock Trogan, which when looked down upon is a beautiful green; but in the water a kind of purple. In default of this, which is an expensive feather, a good black-red. In either case the hackle must be wrapped over all.

HEAD. Black Ostrich.

Of the foregoing, No. 1. Plate VII., and No. 3. Plate IX. are very beautiful and expensive flies, particularly the latter number. Yet I am satisfied that I could take out No. 3. Plate VIII., the Captain, made of two sizes, large and small, according to the state of the water, and have a better chance of success than with a book stuffed to repletion with all kinds of pretty things. Taste is often sacrificed to show: beauty and expense are neither of them criterions of excellence. — *Verb. sap.*

Having come to the conclusion of the fifth part of this little work, the Author may as well add, that all his contrivances for deluding the finny race are manufactured and sold by Mrs. A. Lewis, Fly-maker, Hereford.

A FEW HINTS ON ANGLING, FOR THOSE
WHO MAY NOT LIKE TO TRY THE RULES
IN THE PREVIOUS PAGES.

“ Encore un peu d'attention,
Et vous allez savoir —
* * * * *
Mais prêtez bien l'oreille, à ce que je vais dire.”
MOLIÈRE.

1.

EVER be found fishing at dusk ; the darker the tinge of dusk, the better. You will most likely kill some fish ; and should you not arrive at that desideratum, your line will amply compensate you for the disappointment. It cannot fail to make you merry ; for it will assume as many intricate twistings and contortions, in ten minutes, as the face of Liston, in his broadest farce, during an hour and a half. Just fancy an hour and a half's risibility com-

pressed into a few inches of gut! Who would not fish in the dark? — To the skill required in night-fishing, an acquaintance of the Author's bore ample testimony. He stuck a lump of bacon on a large hook; and at eleven o'clock, one night, took therewith a brace of Trout.

2.

Be at the river by, or before, day-break. Should not the fish rise, the sun probably may; and it is often a glorious sight. Besides, there is another advantage in this, to those who follow you after breakfast; — you will have brushed off the dew for the benefit of the lazy ones, should the sun not have been in the humour to bottle it for his rain-cellar. And then the gross vapours, or imperfect condensations of the air, as Lord Bacon calls them — the fog which usually hovers over the stream during the small hours — must prove a pleasing variety to the lungs. By the way, it is not improbable but that one of the great attractions of this very early fishing in fog is the well-known fact, that though objects appear further off

when viewed through its medium than when seen through the common air, they at the same time assume more gigantic proportions. As the early bird, perhaps, during the foggy hours, fancies he is going to swallow a fine beetle, which, however, turns out to be only a poor ant,—so the early fisher, deluded by the magnifying vapour, sees nothing but the real patriarchs of the stream in the half-pounders ; and returns to breakfast, brimfull of marvellous tales of magnificent fish — thanks to a foggy atmosphere, and intellect to correspond.

3.

If your *penchant* incline toward glittering chains and bright clothing, do not think of staying at home, and sitting before a looking-glass, or of parading the streets for the delight of milliners' apprentices. No ;—remember, Narcissus converted water into a mirror ; so may you : at all events, you will have the felicity of so dazzling the fish, that, in admiration of your finery, they will never be able to cast a single glance at your bait.

4.

Always fly-fish energetically and perseveringly when you do not see a rise ; for great will be your chance of hooking — a weed, which, unlike certain other weeds, may not end in mere smoke.

5.

In Minnow-fishing, a short line being generally used, always throw *down stream* ; for, when a Trout darts from his concealment under bank, stump, stone, or weed, he will then have a *good view of you*, and, satisfying his curiosity in this respect, he will take especial care not to gratify yours by any nearer acquaintance with him, but will quietly return whence he came.

6.

Never examine your hook after taking a fish ; for should the point be broken or blunted, it might occasion you the trouble and incon-

venience of changing it: and, after having had a tolerable number of rises at the imperfect hook, seek out your friends, and complain that "really the fish rise uncommon *short* to-day." Neither pry too closely into the condition of your gut, after having used it for some time — nor on a windy day — nor after hooking weeds, trees, and such-like vegetable matters. If you do, you will be sure to find it knotted, twisted, frayed, or in some unaccountable predicament, which will not increase your pleasure or happiness one iota.

"Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise."

7.

A Grayling never rises at a fly till it has passed *over* or close *by* him. He then shoots with extraordinary rapidity upwards, but *backwards*, and thus secures the insect. (His *upper* lip, projecting considerably *over* his *under*, incapacitates him from taking the fly while *before* him, as the Trout does. Were he to try this experiment, his protruding upper lip would but

serve to push it away.) How many men, with the Grayling's snout, lack the Grayling's instinct! — seeking, by means unsuited to their capacities; whereas, though they could never have been shining lights in their generation, they might have passed for very respectable jack-o'-lanterns, had they but applied the fable of the Frog and the Ox to their own cases. With this knowledge — of the fish, not the men, — always draw your fly *against* the stream; they cannot fail to *see* it; and if they do not *take* it, of course the fault must be either theirs or Nature's. How can you help that?

8.

A Trout rather *advances* to meet the fly, than *retreats* from it, before his rise. It is therefore obvious that you must throw plenty of line *over* him; so that, when the fly does make its tardy appearance, he shall have had ample time to put on his spectacles, and to ascertain the fact of something wrong. He then, very quietly, wags his tail, and allows the curiosity to go on its own way in peace.

9.

When the weeds are well up, fail not to put on, at the least, three flies ; you may thus have a good opportunity to catch—a Tartar ; for, should a fish take your highest drop-fly,—in fact, any of the three,— there is a very pretty chance that one or both the others will become entangled in the weeds, and the fish make his escape ; the casting line being very likely to follow the example. This rule equally holds good in night angling. The three flies being more liable than only one to enter into all kinds of perplexing embarrassments, your amusement in the art of re-arrangement will be proportionably prolonged.

10.

When not using your rod, by the river-side, never stick it upright, but always lay it down. You can then take your quarter-deck promenade, extending it occasionally, cigar in

mouth ; when you will, most probably, unless *very* unlucky, contrive to tread upon it, perchance breaking one of the joints. There's a break for you ! not only in the rod, but in the monotony of the day ! You ought to send me a very handsome present, were it only for this single "Practical Hint and Dainty Device."

11.

Always "play" a fish well where there are plenty of weeds or roots. It is quite amusing to see a fine Trout dash into a heavy bed of weeds ; and your wonder will be very considerably increased if you ever see him come *out* again.

12.

It is advisable to enter into such compact with the sun, that he should be always behind you. Two reasons bear sufficient testimony to the soundness of this doctrine : — the sun in

our eyes is unpleasing ; and when he is behind us, we are enabled to fish in the shade projected by our own persons over the water—and what angler can deny that a *shaded* place is very *fishy* ?

13.

The practice of winding a wet casting-line round your hat is highly commendable ; for, in the process of drying, the sun will cover the gut with a number of bright specks, which sparkle very attractively ; and as Trout love a little glitter, you will thus be enabled to present them with a tolerably good dose of it. The flies, with which the hat should be always ornamented, denote your pursuit ; like the cockle shells, similarly worn by the Pilgrim from Holy Land in days gone by.

14.

The sagacity of the dog is too well known to need any encomiums from me. I may, how-

ever, venture upon an illustration. Always take one or two of your canine favourites with you to the river, and you will find them ever showing their acuteness by hunting rats, swimming after water-fowl, galloping about close to the edge of the river, entangling your flies about their legs, and then starting off, tail on end, in the highest glee, with divers other pranks of a like amusing nature. All this plainly shows that they are fully conscious you were not at the water for angling purposes ; but wholly and solely for their particular and especial amusement. Should you even happen to speak harshly to them, they only look up at you, wag their tails, and, considering your rough tones part of the fun, plunge headlong into the stream, driving the fish about in the most admired confusion. I once, however, saw a dog that had been trained to do duty for a landing net. When a fish had been hooked, he would, on a sign from his master, leap in, lay hold of it by the middle, and bring it safe to shore.

15.

Avoid a dull and a damp day. The dull, sounds stupid ; and the damp, aguish.

16.

I can strongly recommend, for the exercise of your art, the Irishman's "likely stream." A gentleman once saw an Irishman flogging the water, with great perseverance, but without correspondent success ; and, after standing for some time in admiration of the artist's practice, observed,—

"A likely stream, sir ; as likely a stream as I ever saw."

Whereupon, Pat, looking up with that humorous expression which only twinkles in an Irishman's eye, replied, —

"Ah, sure now, an' ye may say that same ; an' so well do the *fish* like it, bad 'cess to 'em ! the divil a one can I git out of it, any way!"

"Then why don't you try the little brook that falls in just below ?"

“ An’ is it fun ye’re afther poking at me?
Be me sowl ! an’ that sthrame’s jist like a No-
vember day.”

“ A November day ! a November day !
What’s that ?”

“ Short an’ dirthy, sure !”

To such streams as these, I call your very
particular attention ; for you will there have
very excellent practice in throwing.

And now, brother angler, fare thee well till
our next merry meeting. May sport attend
thee ! only bear in mind, that should that sport
prove, as Hudibras sings,

“ An Ignis Fatuus that bewitches,
And leads men into *pools* and *ditches*,”

why it may so happen, that thou shalt

Not only soak thy hose and breeches,
But catch, instead of fish, some — leeches !

ANGER'S SONG.

“Pardon me—humanum est errare.”

Every Man in his Humour.

I.

YE lovers of angling,
 And haters of wrangling,
 Come hither, and list to my lay ;
 I sing of a sport,
 Which the wise will court,
 Till King Death lay claim to their clay.

II.

The rod that I wave,
 Is no pedagogue's slave,
 The dunce may survey it with smiles ;
 For no horrid pickle,
 To add to its tickle,
 Its round, polish'd surface defiles.

III.

To cast the light fly
O'er streams, is a joy

Unknown to that creature, the *Book-worm* ;
He glories in nought
Save another's thought,
I glory in being a *Hook-worm*.

IV.

Old Euclid may shine
In angles divine,
And prattle of A B C D ;
My angle, however,
If angular, never
Would be a *right angle* for me.

V.

Of Castalian stream
The poet may dream,
And fancy he's nabb'd a bright thought ;
But enough for me,
Is a stream that's free,
Where the speckled Trout may be caught.

VI.

Lines of verse, 'tis said,
Proceed from the *head*,
And the mental palate regale ;
Then what can exceed
The poet's bright deed ? —
Lines of hair, from a horse's *tail*.

VII.

By hook or by crook,
Some cunningly look
To win both the loaves and the fishes ;
But the angler wanders,
As the stream meanders,
And there centre *his* honest wishes.

VIII.

Perchance at college,
In search of knowledge,
Tom shone a dandified dangler,
Cajoling with pun,
Old Don and young Dun, —
He may still be — Senior Angler !

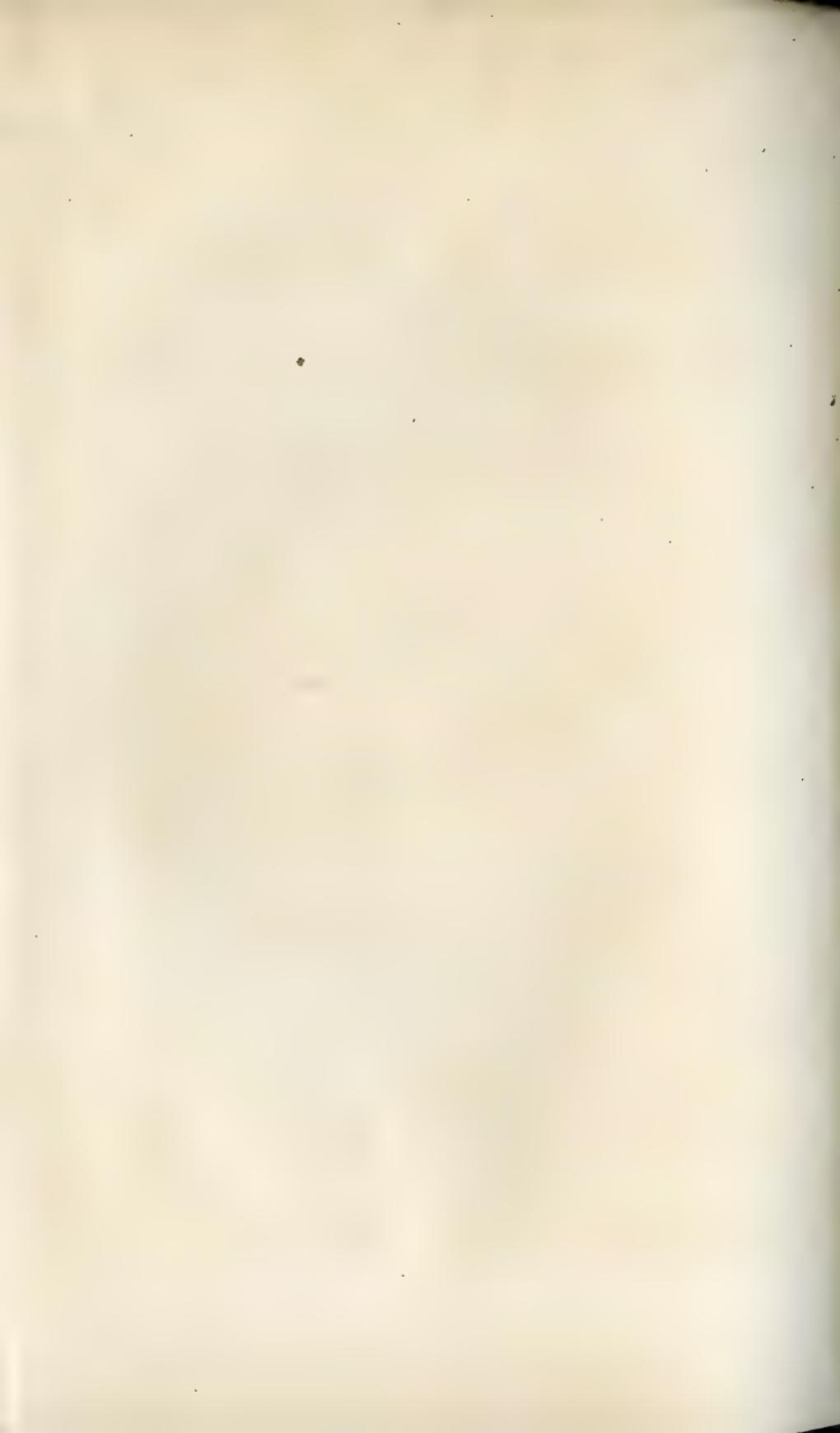
IX.

Hurra! then, hurra!
For the angler's gay,
And wends to the brook with his tackle;
He laughs at all evil,
Throws care to the Devil,
And shakes off the world's ev'ry shackle.

THE END.

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[JULY 1864.]

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